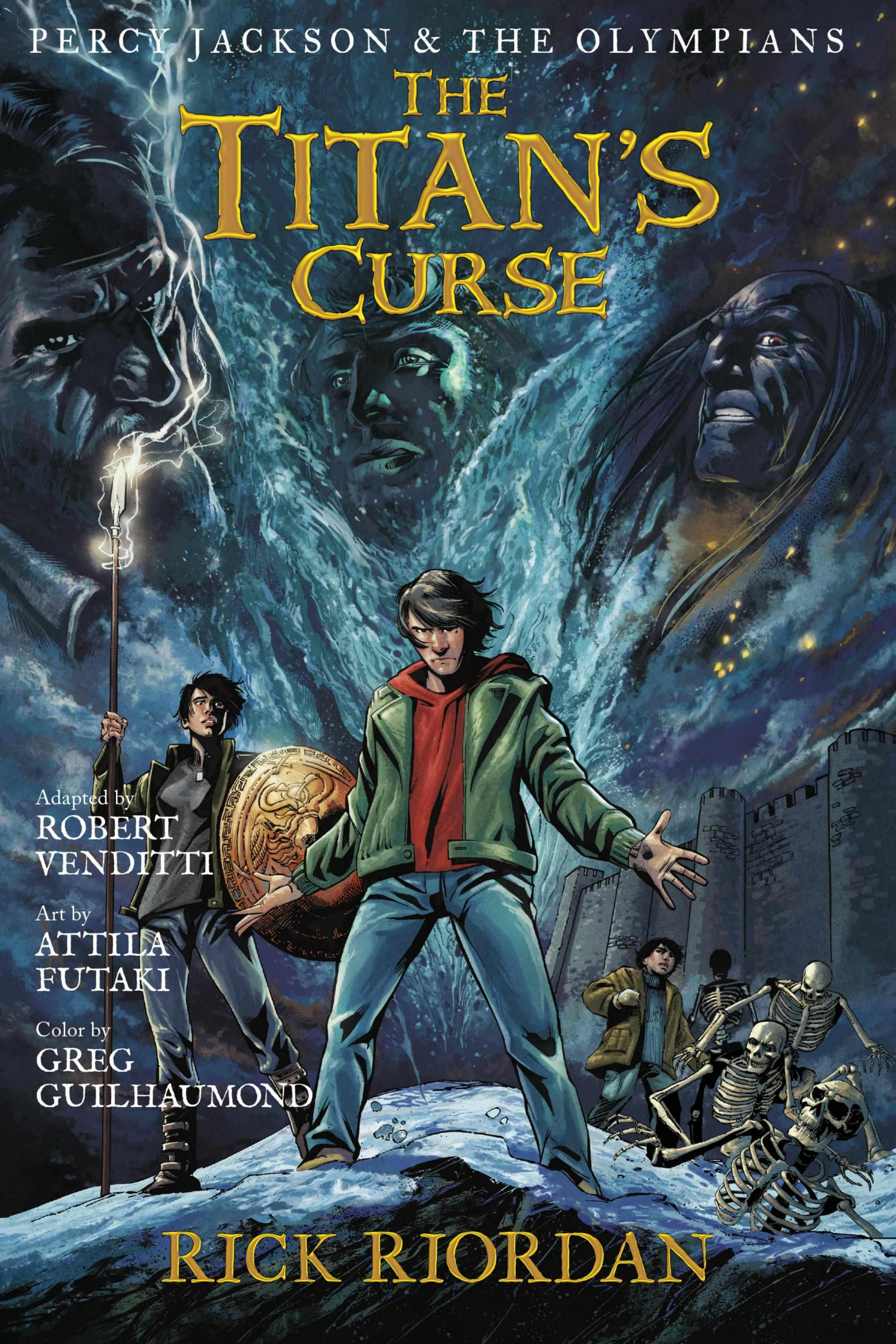
PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS

THE TITAN'S CURSE



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RICK RIORDAN

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PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS

BOOK THREE

THE TITAN'S CURSE

The Graphic Novel

by

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Adapted by

Robert Venditti

Art by

Attila Futaki

Color by

Gregory Guilhaumond

Lettering by

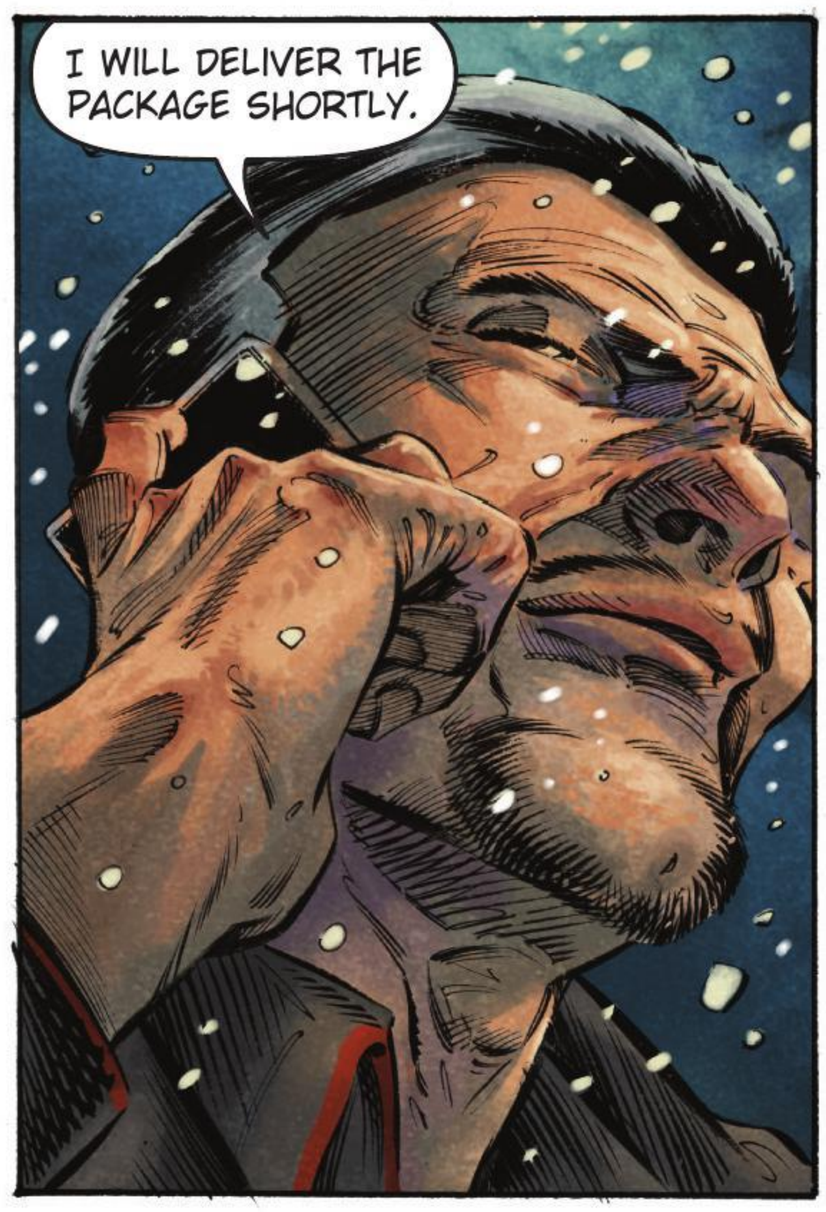
Chris Dickey

Disney · HYPERION BOOKS

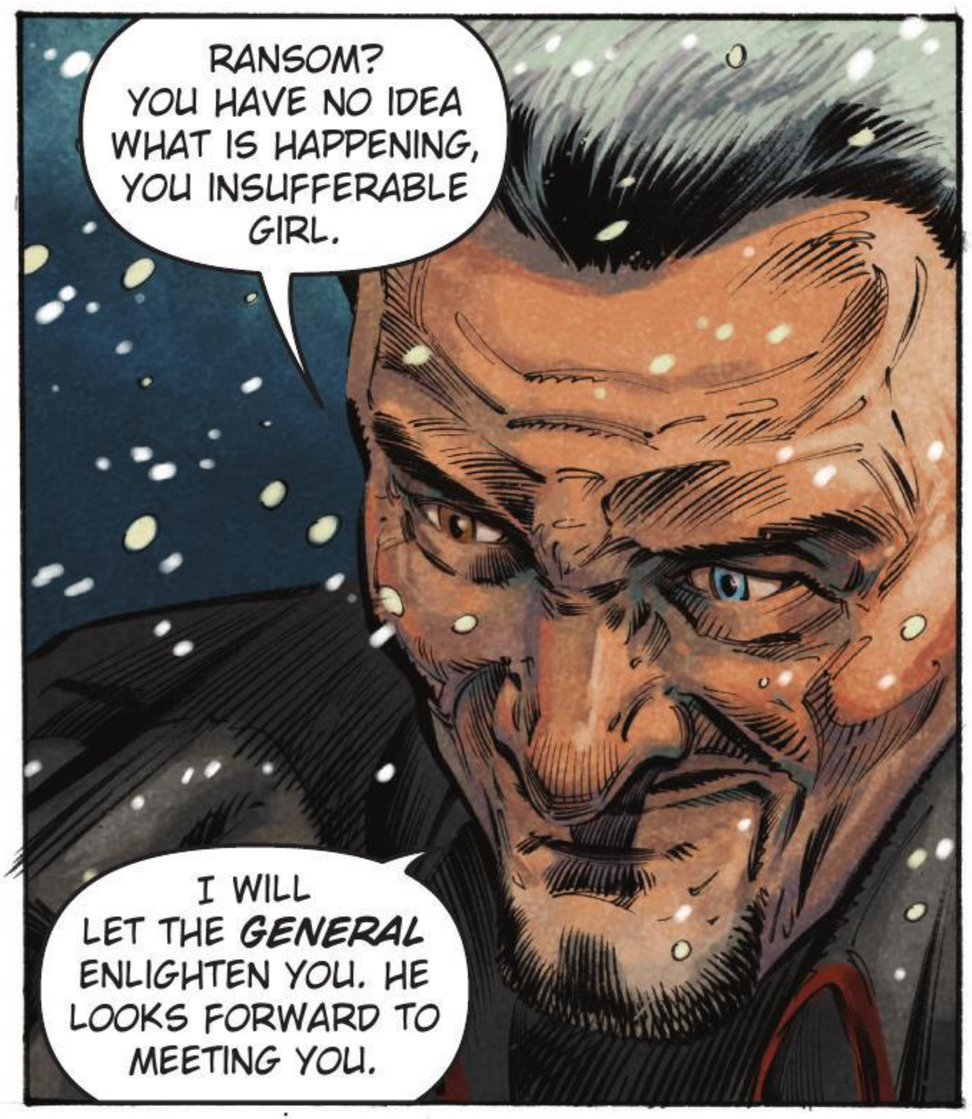
New York

WESTOVER MILITARY ACADEMY.
BAR HARBOR, MAINE.

MY NAME'S PERCY.
DON'T WORRY. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE.
WHISH
THUNK
AH!
FEAR NOT, PERSEUS JACKSON. MY POISON WILL NOT KILL YOU.
THOUGH THE PAIN MAY MAKE YOU WISH IT HAD.
NOW, ALL THREE OF YOU WILL COME WITH ME, OR I WILL SHOW YOU JUST HOW ACCURATELY I CAN SHOOT.


I WILL DELIVER THE PACKAGE SHORTLY.

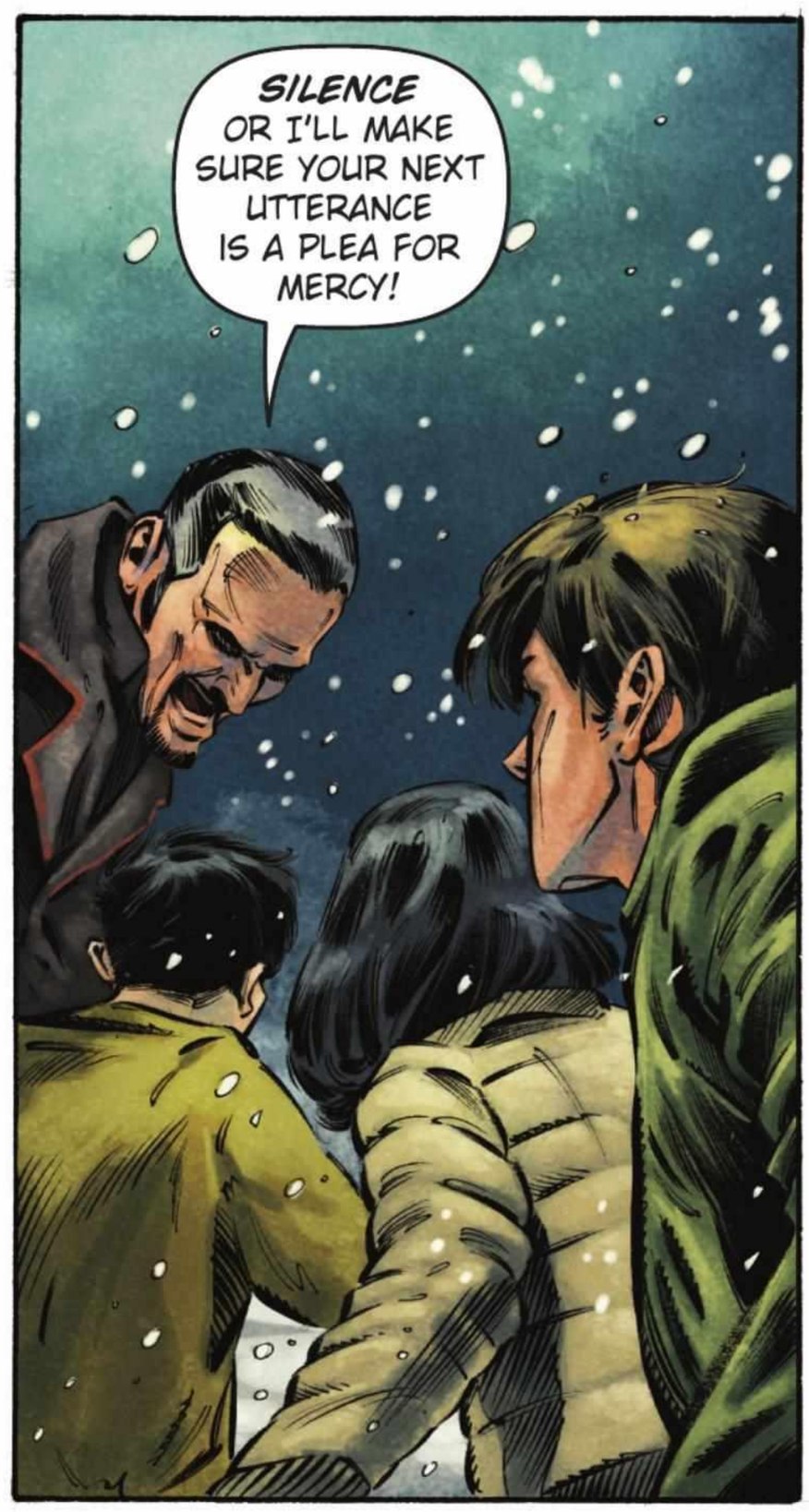
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU ARE WANTED ALIVE. OTHERWISE YOU WOULD ALREADY BY DEAD.
WHO'D WANT *US*, DR. THORN?
MY BROTHER AND I...WE DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY.


RANSOM? YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING, YOU INSUFFERABLE GIRL.
I WILL LET THE *GENERAL* ENLIGHTEN YOU. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

YOU ARE ALL TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN A GREAT ARMY. AND IF YOU CHOOSE *NOT* TO JOIN...
WELL, THERE ARE MANY MONSTROUS MOUTHS TO FEED. THE *GREAT STIRRING* IS UNDER WAY.
THE GREAT WHAT?

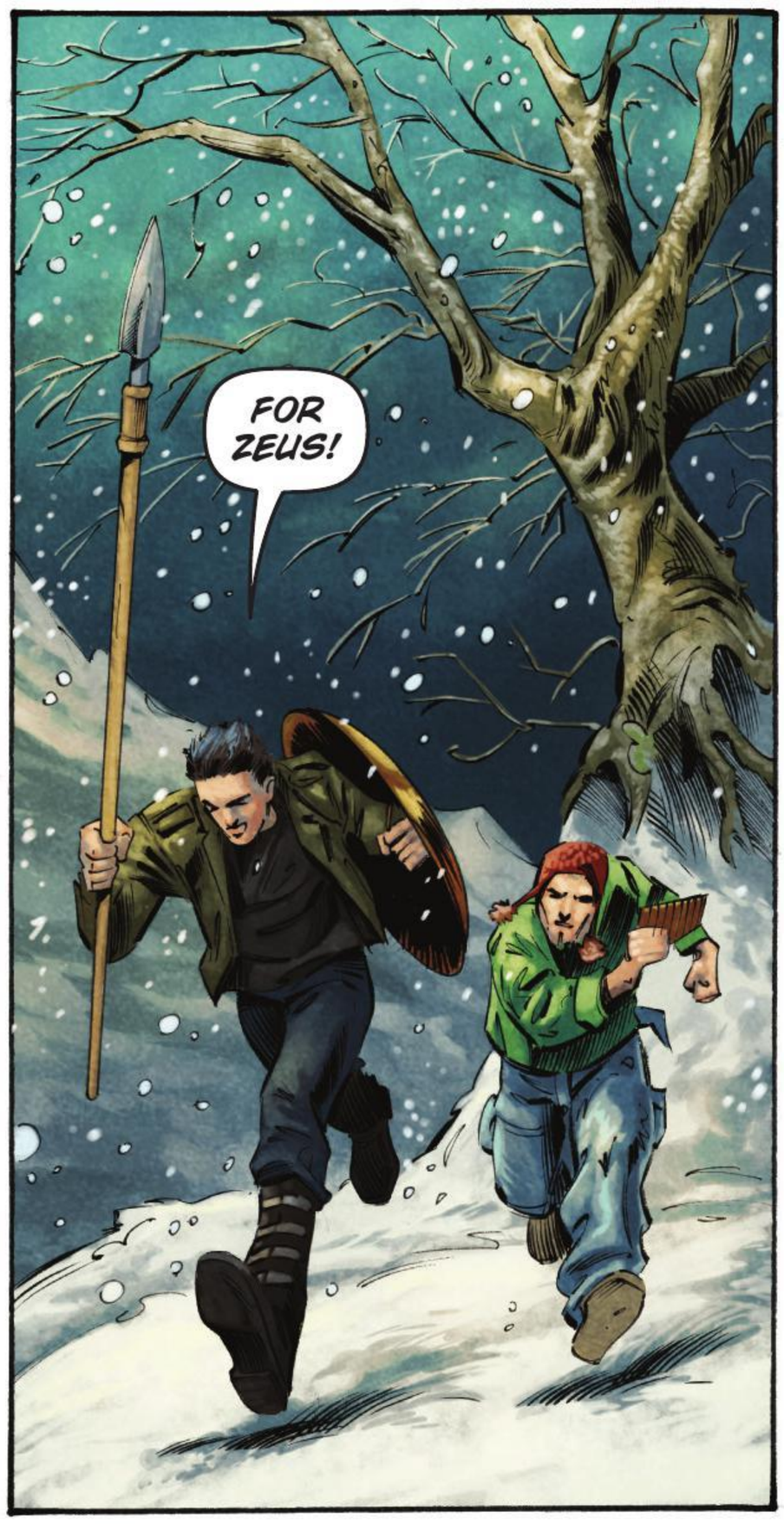
THE STIRRING OF MONSTERS. THE WORST OF THEM ARE NOW WAKING. THEY WILL CAUSE DESTRUCTION THE LIKES OF WHICH MORTALS HAVE NEVER KNOWN.
AND SOON WE SHALL HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT MONSTER OF ALL--THE ONE THAT SHALL BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF OLYMPUS.

WE HAVE TO JUMP OFF THE CLIFF. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE. THE OCEAN MUST BE DOWN THERE SOMEWHERE.
SURE THING, KID-THAT-I-JUST-MET. IS THAT BEFORE OR AFTER THE "MONSTERS" DESTROY THE WORLD?
HAS EVERYONE GONE COMPLETELY NUTS?


SILENCE OR I'LL MAKE SURE YOUR NEXT UTTERANCE IS A PLEA FOR MERCY!

-oof-
WHAT?

UM...THANKS, ANNABETH.


FOR ZEUS!

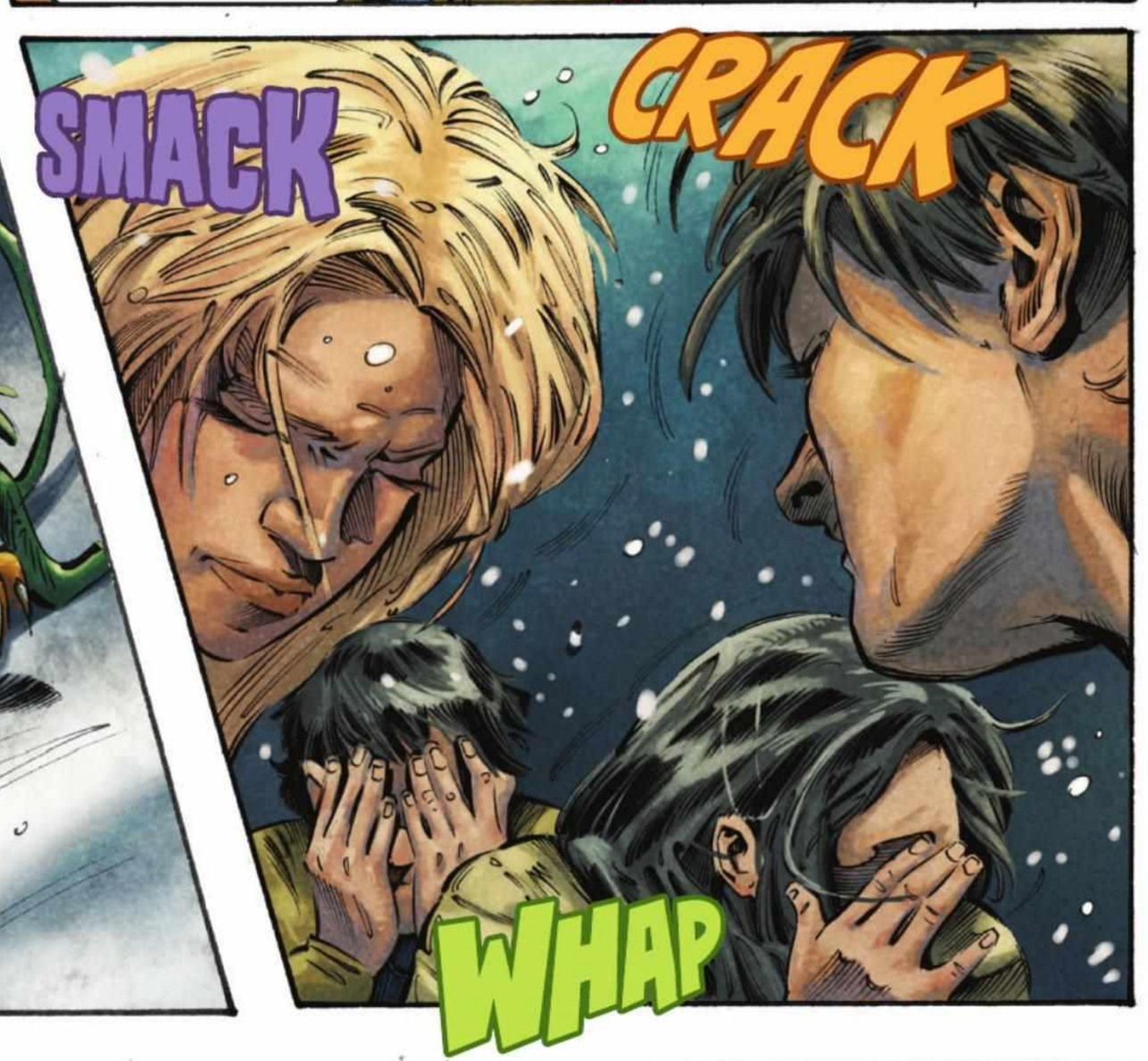
YAH!

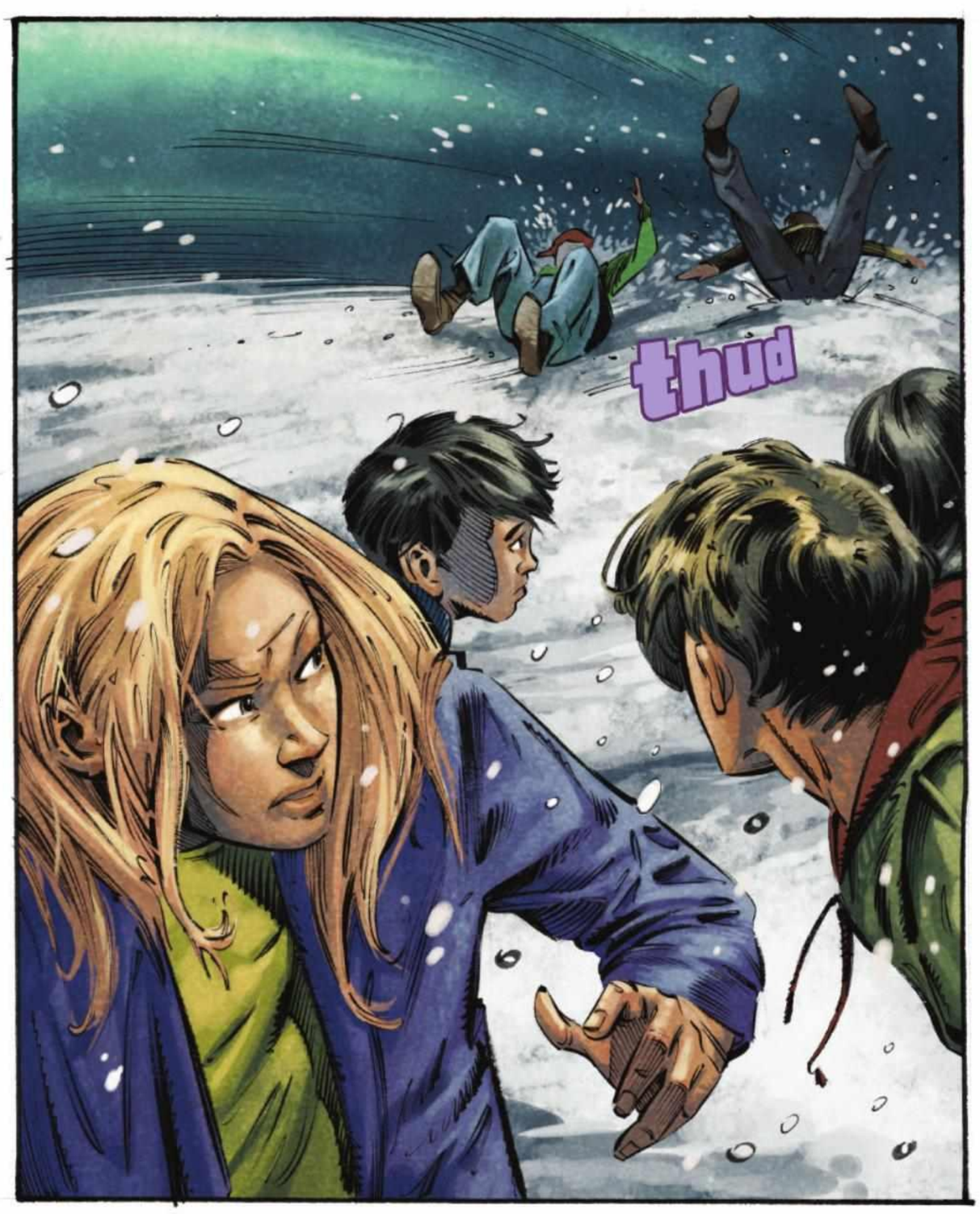
SCRIITCH

YOUR PALTRY WOODLAND MAGIC IS NO MATCH FOR ME, SATYR!

GROWL!

WHAT IS THAT?!
A MANTICORE!
A MANTICORE?
THOSE HAVE THREE THOUSAND ATTACK POWER AND PLUS FIVE TO SAVING THROWS!


SMACK
CRACK
WHAP

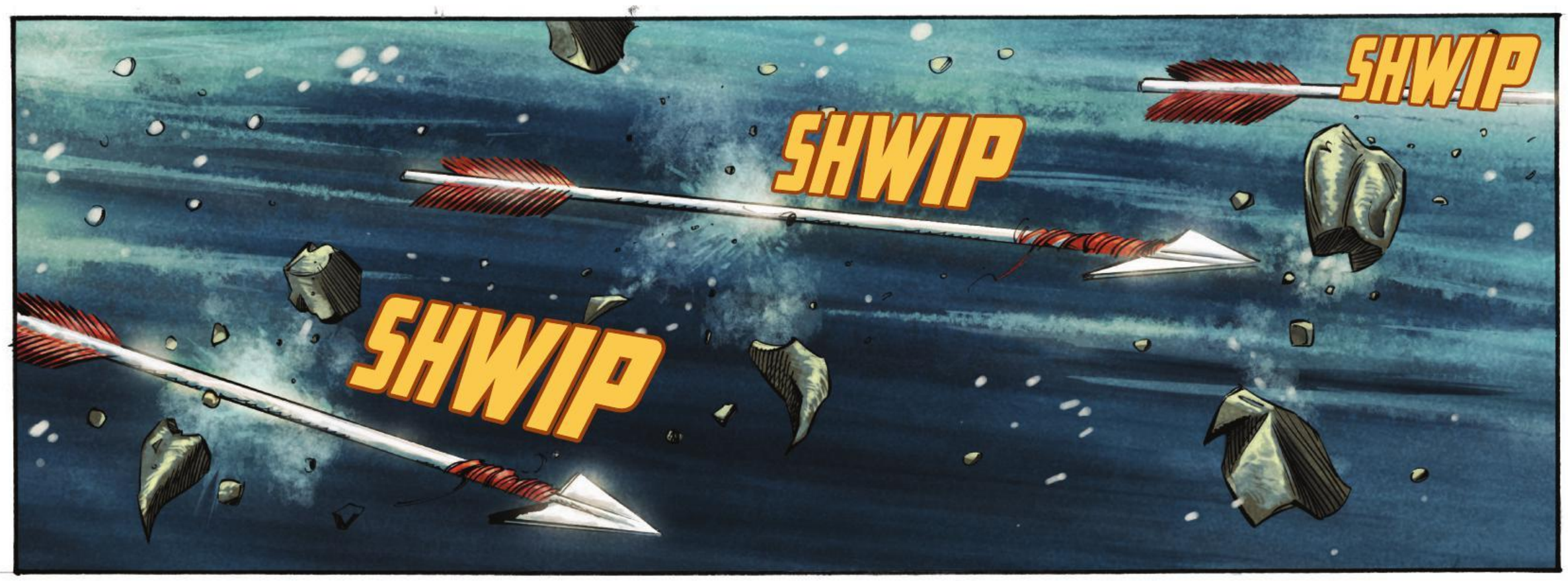

thud

IT IS POINTLESS TO FIGHT, LITTLE HEROES.
YIELD.

THUNK
ROAR!
NO. IT CANNOT BE...
THIS IS NOT FAIR! DIRECT INTERFERENCE IS AGAINST THE ANCIENT LAWS!

NOT SO. THE HUNTING OF ALL WILD BEASTS IS WITHIN MY SPHERE.
AND YOU, FOUL CREATURE, ARE A WILD BEAST.

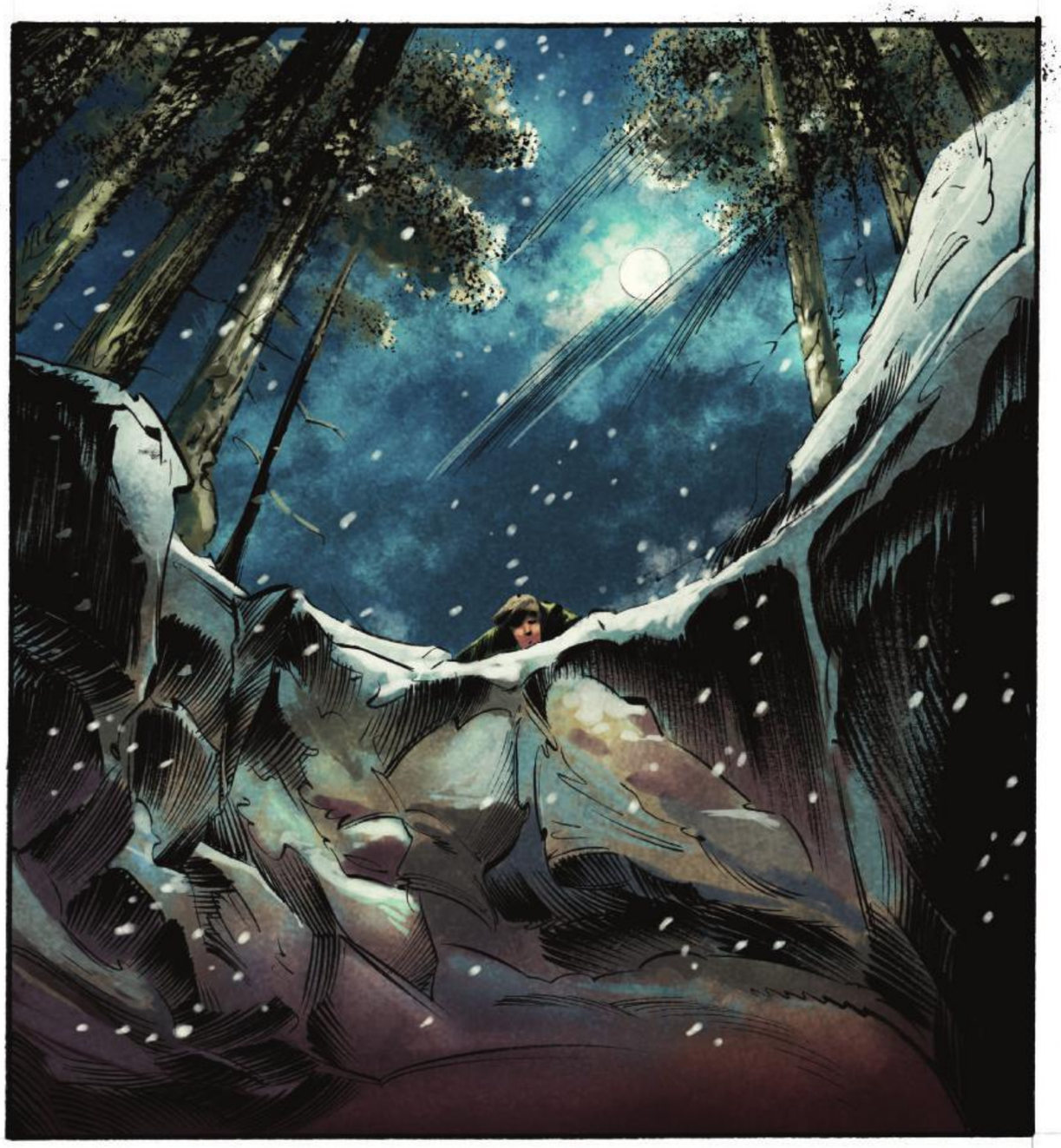
WHISH
THE GODLINGS ARE MINE!


SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP

GRRRR... VERY WELL. IF I CANNOT HAVE THE GODLINGS ALIVE, THEN I SHALL HAVE THEM DEAD!
NOT IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
RARRRR!

CURSE YOU!

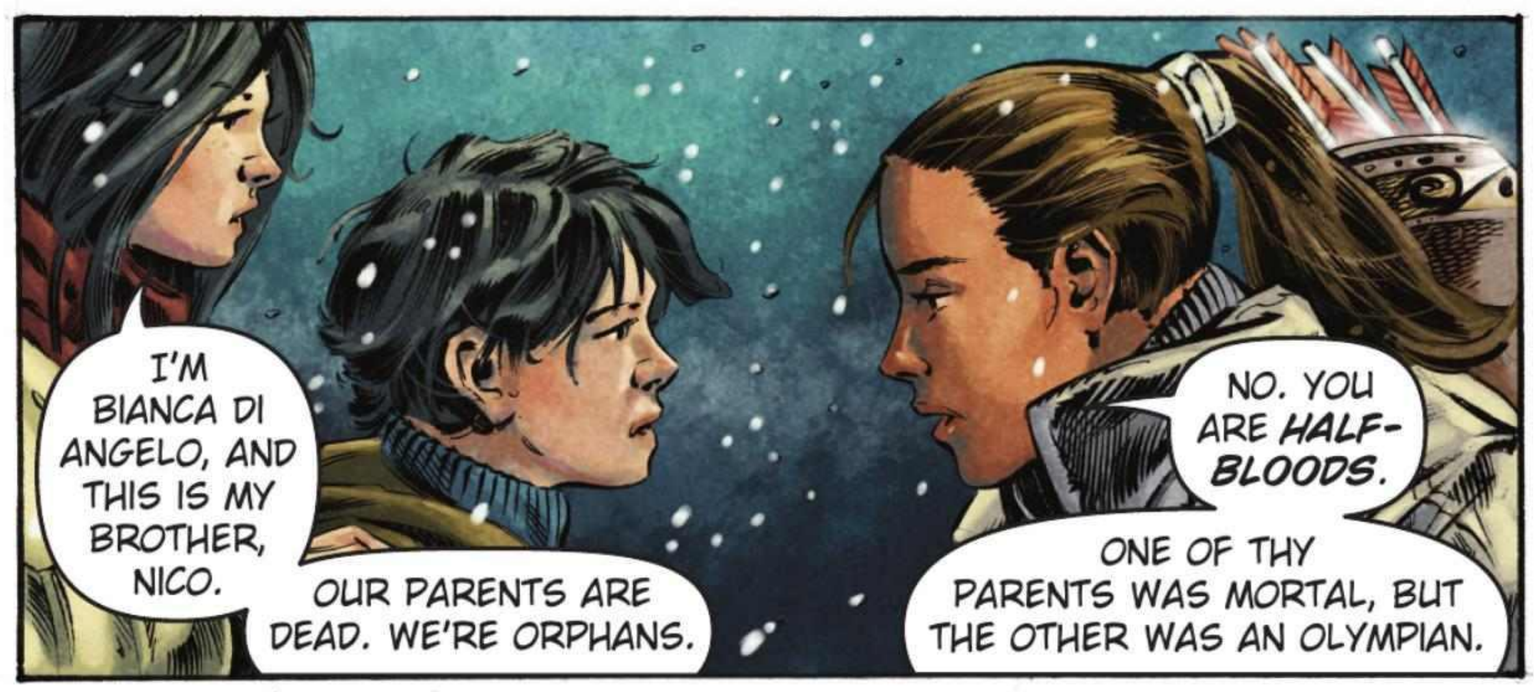
ANNABETH!



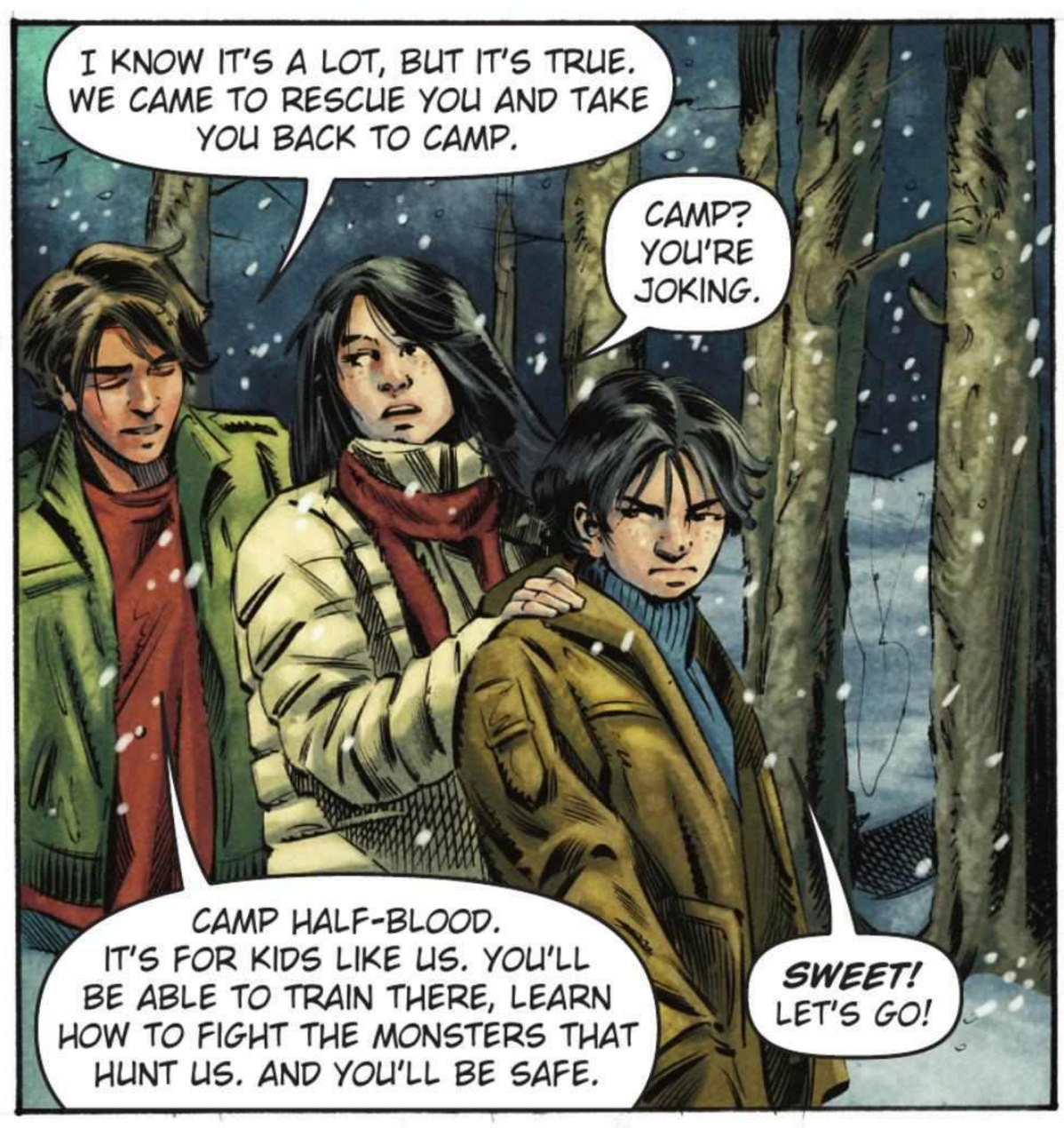
COME ON! WE HAVE TO HELP HER!
SHE IS BEYOND HELP.
CAN YOU NOT SENSE IT, SON OF POSEIDON? THERE IS MAGIC AT WORK. I DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT YOUR FRIEND HAS VANISHED.
VANISHED?! THEN LET'S FIND HER.

WHOA. TIME OUT. WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL HIM?
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

I AM ARTEMIS, GODDESS OF THE HUNT. THESE ARE MY HUNTERS.
THE BETTER QUESTION, MY DEAR GIRL, IS WHO ARE YOU? WHO ARE YOUR PARENTS?


I'M BIANCA DI ANGELO, AND THIS IS MY BROTHER, NICO.
OUR PARENTS ARE DEAD. WE'RE ORPHANS.
NO. YOU ARE HALF-BLOODS.
ONE OF THY PARENTS WAS MORTAL, BUT THE OTHER WAS AN OLYMPIAN.

OLYMPIAN? LIKE A...GREEK GOD? YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?
REMEMBER THAT BUS DRIVER WITH THE RAM'S HORNS? I TOLD YOU THAT WAS REAL!
AND LAST SUMMER, THERE WERE THOSE... THINGS...THAT TRIED TO ATTACK US IN THE ALLEY.


I KNOW IT'S A LOT, BUT IT'S TRUE. WE CAME TO RESCUE YOU AND TAKE YOU BACK TO CAMP.
CAMP? YOU'RE JOKING.
CAMP HALF-BLOOD. IT'S FOR KIDS LIKE US. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRAIN THERE, LEARN HOW TO FIGHT THE MONSTERS THAT HUNT US. AND YOU'LL BE SAFE.
SWEET! LET'S GO!

BUT WE JUST MET YOU GUYS. MY BROTHER AND I HAVE A LIFE HERE.
SORT OF...
I'M SORRY. REALLY. THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER WAY.

VERILY, THERE IS ANOTHER OPTION. FOR *HER*.
NO, THERE ISN'T! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO--

ENOUGH. WE WILL REST HERE FOR A FEW HOURS.
ZOË, RAISE THE TENTS AND SEE THAT THE WOUNDED ARE TENDED TO.
AND SEND SOME OF THE OTHERS TO RETRIEVE OUR GUESTS' BELONGINGS.
YES, MY LADY.
BIANCA, COME WITH ME. I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN PRIVATE.

THE *NERVE* OF THOSE HUNTERS!
I'M WITH YOU. THEY SHOULD BE HELPING US LOOK FOR ANNABETH.
OH, YOU'RE *WITH ME* NOW?
TOO BAD YOU WEREN'T WITH ME WHEN YOU DECIDED TO TAKE ON A MANTICORE ALL BY YOURSELF.

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *OUR* MISSION.
IF YOU'D WAITED FOR US, WE COULD'VE TAKEN HIM ON TOGETHER. AND MAYBE *ANNABETH* WOULD STILL BE HERE!

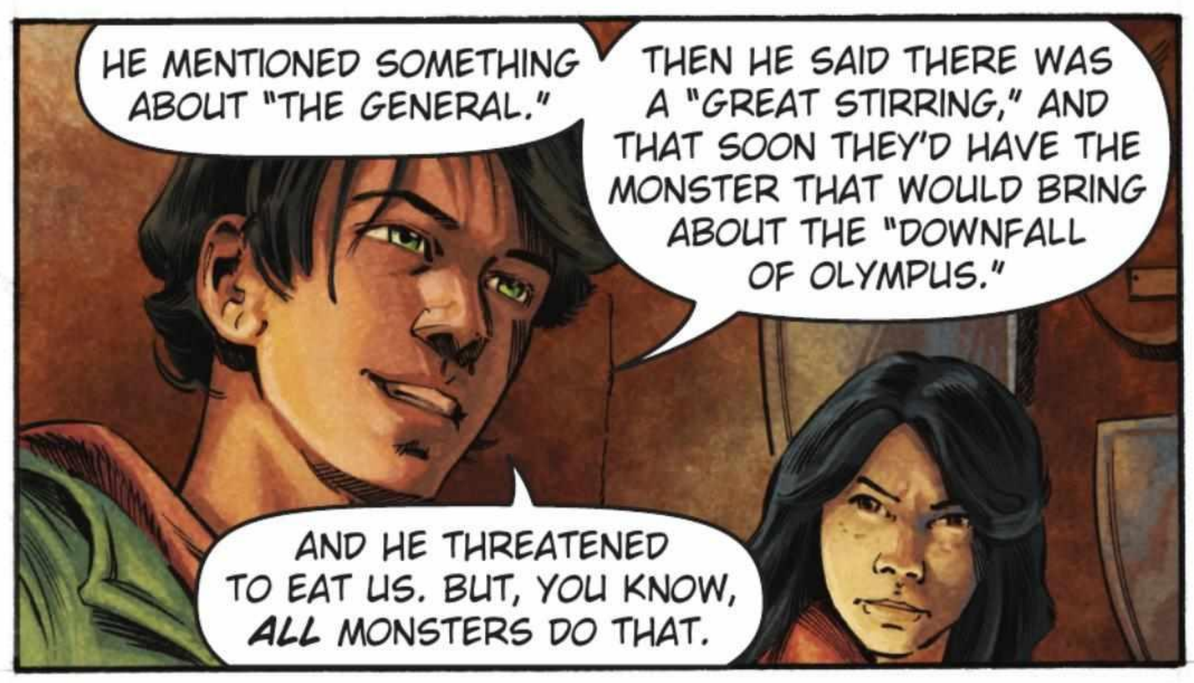
THINK ABOUT *THAT*!

THAT MAGIC SALVE SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
THANKS, GROVER. IT'S FEELING BETTER ALREADY.
ARGH! TAKE THAT!
YOU SURE HAVE A BUNCH OF THOSE FIGURINES, NICO. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COLLECTING THEM?
ABOUT A YEAR. I THINK. BEFORE THAT, I WAS INTO...
I DON'T REMEMBER. THAT'S WEIRD.
HEY! DOES ZEUS REALLY HAVE LIGHTNING BOLTS THAT DO SIX HUNDRED DAMAGE? CAN POSEIDON--
--THAT'S YOUR DAD, RIGHT?
HOW DOES HE MAKE HURRICANES?
I--
PERCY JACKSON.
LADY ARTEMIS WILL SPEAK WITH THEE.

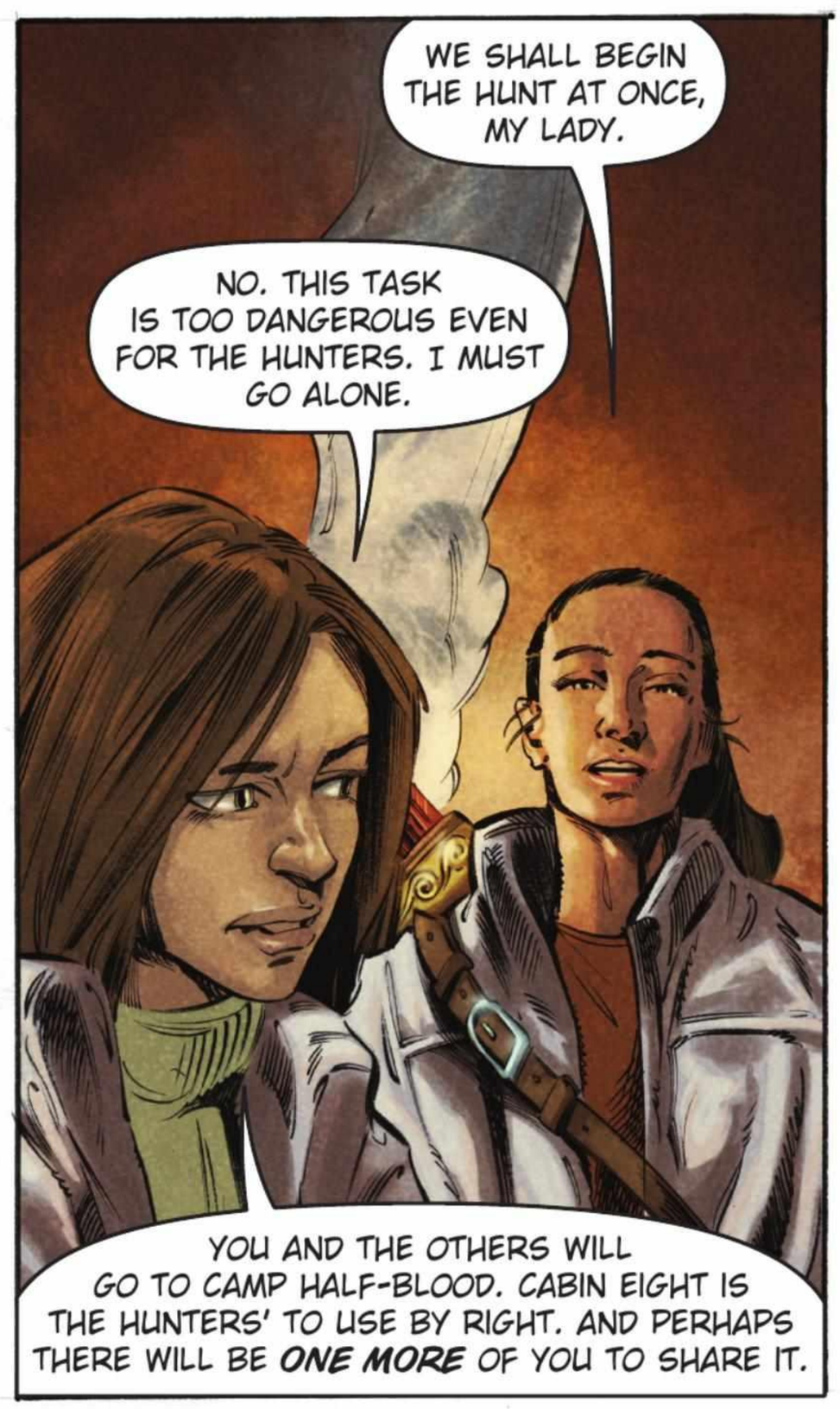
FORGIVE MY HUNTERS IF THEY ARE GRUFF. IT IS VERY RARE THAT WE HAVE BOYS IN OUR CAMP.
AND THEY HAVE SEEN SO MANY YOUNG MAIDENS GO ASTRAY.
ASTRAY?

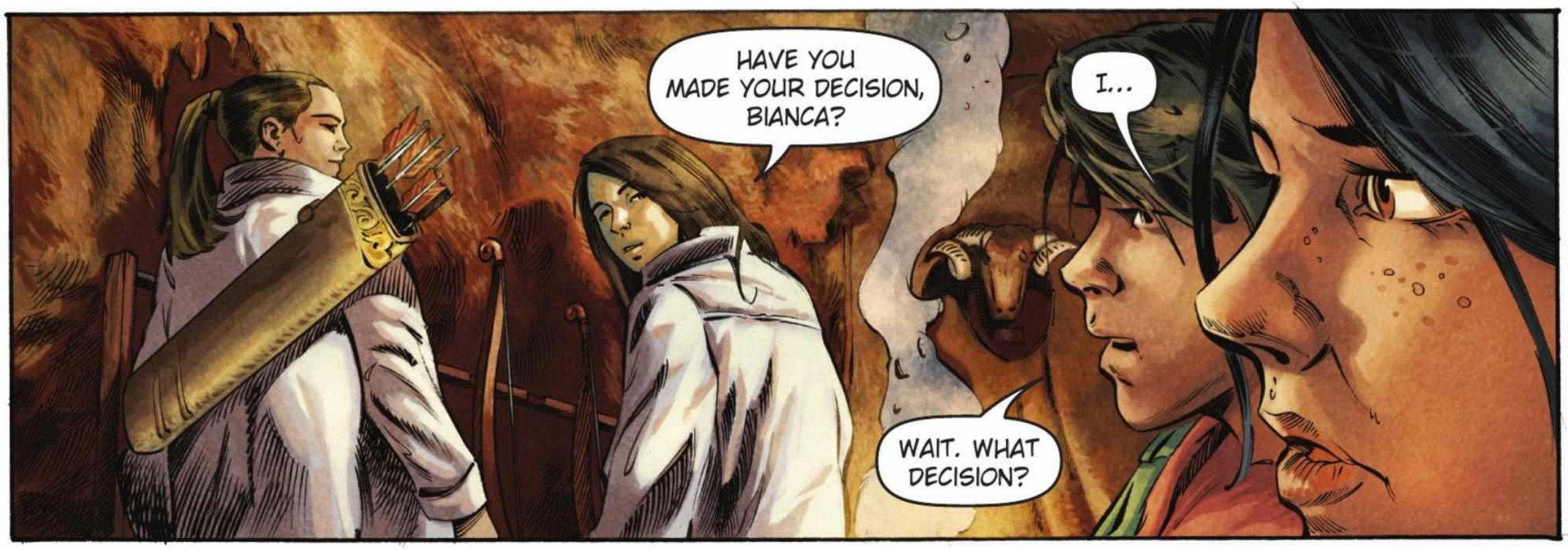
FORGET THEMSELVES. BECOME SILLY, PREOCCUPIED, INSECURE.
A RESULT OF BEING SMITTEN WITH BOYS.
OH. RIGHT.

I ASKED YOU HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANTICORE. BIANCA HAS REPORTED SOME OF THE...DISTURBING THINGS THE MONSTER SAID.
BUT SHE MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THEM.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR THEM FROM YOU.


HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT "THE GENERAL."
THEN HE SAID THERE WAS A "GREAT STIRRING," AND THAT SOON THEY'D HAVE THE MONSTER THAT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE "DOWNFALL OF OLYMPUS."
AND HE THREATENED TO EAT US. BUT, YOU KNOW, ALL MONSTERS DO THAT.

THE GENERAL...? HOW COULD IT BE?
IT IS AS I FEARED.
I MUST FIND THIS CREATURE AND BRING IT BACK TO OLYMPUS BY WINTER SOLSTICE. IT WILL BE THE PROOF I NEED TO CONVINCE THE COUNCIL OF HOW MUCH DANGER WE ARE IN.


WE SHALL BEGIN THE HUNT AT ONCE, MY LADY.
NO. THIS TASK IS TOO DANGEROUS EVEN FOR THE HUNTERS. I MUST GO ALONE.
YOU AND THE OTHERS WILL GO TO CAMP HALF-BLOOD. CABIN EIGHT IS THE HUNTERS' TO USE BY RIGHT. AND PERHAPS THERE WILL BE ONE MORE OF YOU TO SHARE IT.


HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION, BIANCA?
I...
WAIT. WHAT DECISION?

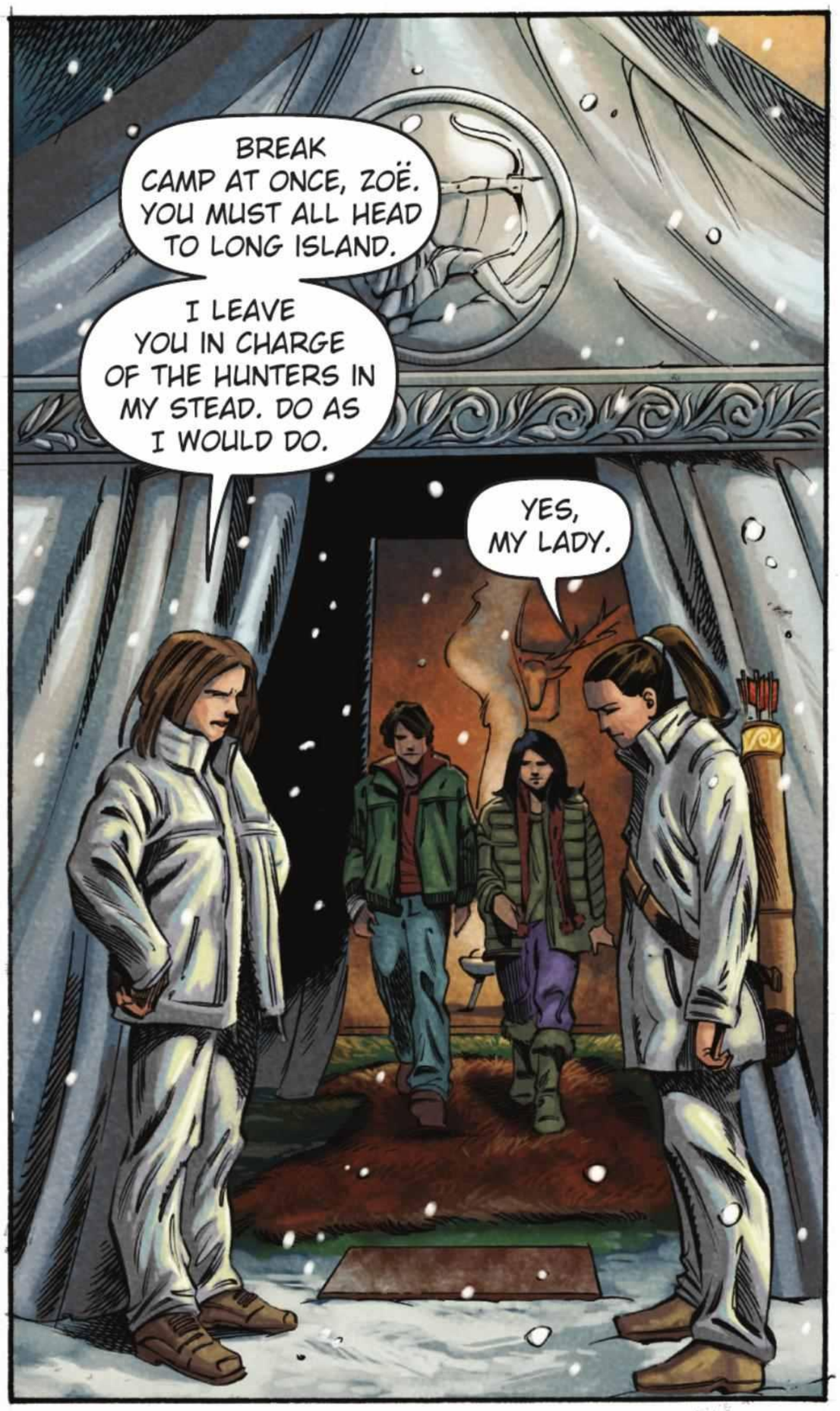
BIANCA HAS BEEN ASKED TO JOIN THE HUNT.
SWEAR LOYALTY TO ME, CHILD, AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE GIFT OF IMMORTALITY. DEATH MAY COME TO YOU ONLY IN BATTLE.
YOU MAY STILL SEE YOUR BROTHER FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT YOU WILL HAVE A NEW FAMILY. *US*.

ALL I ASK IN EXCHANGE IS THAT YOU FORSWEAR ROMANTIC LOVE FOREVER. YOU WILL NEVER GROW UP, NEVER BE MARRIED.
YOU WILL BE A MAIDEN ETERNALLY.
A NEW FAMILY...FREE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

I ACCEPT.

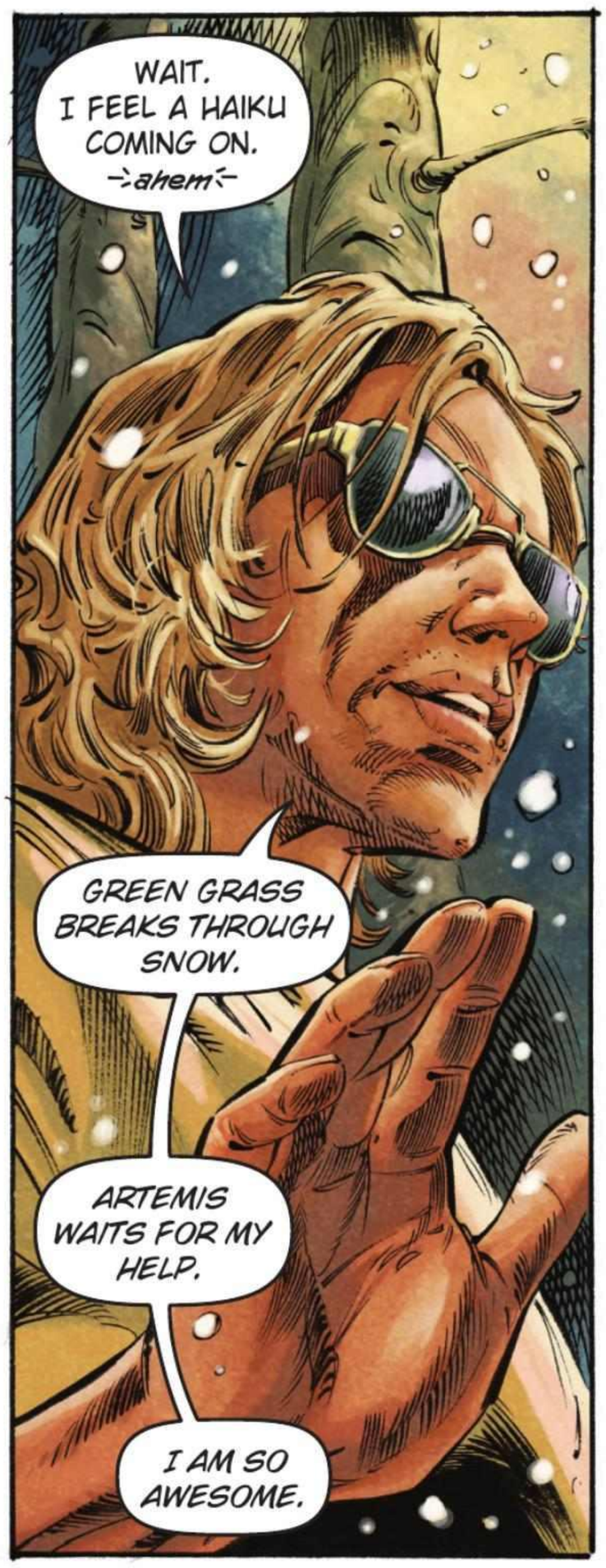
WELCOME, SISTER.
REMEMBER YOUR OATH. IT IS NOW YOUR LIFE.

WHAT ABOUT NICO?
HE'LL BE SAFE AT CAMP. YOU SAID SO YOURSELF.
I'M SORRY, PERCY. I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT I WANT THIS. I *REALLY* DO.



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY TWIN BROTHER, APOLLO. GOD OF THE SUN.

AND POETRY, AMONG OTHER THINGS.


WAIT. I FEEL A HAIKU COMING ON. -ahem-
GREEN GRASS BREAKS THROUGH SNOW.
ARTEMIS WAITS FOR MY HELP.
I AM SO AWESOME.

WHAT'S UP, LITTLE SIS? YOU NEVER CALL. YOU NEVER WRITE. I WAS GETTING WORRIED!
I AM NOT YOUR "LITTLE" SISTER.
AND I AM FINE, BROTHER. BUT I HAVE SOME HUNTING TO DO ALONE. I NEED YOU TO TAKE MY COMPANIONS TO CAMP HALF-BLOOD.

NO SWEAT, SIS.
HI, LORD APOLLO.
HEY...THALIA, RIGHT? YOU USED TO BE A TREE, DIDN'T YOU? GLAD YOU'RE BACK. I HATE IT WHEN PRETTY GIRLS GET TURNED INTO TREES.

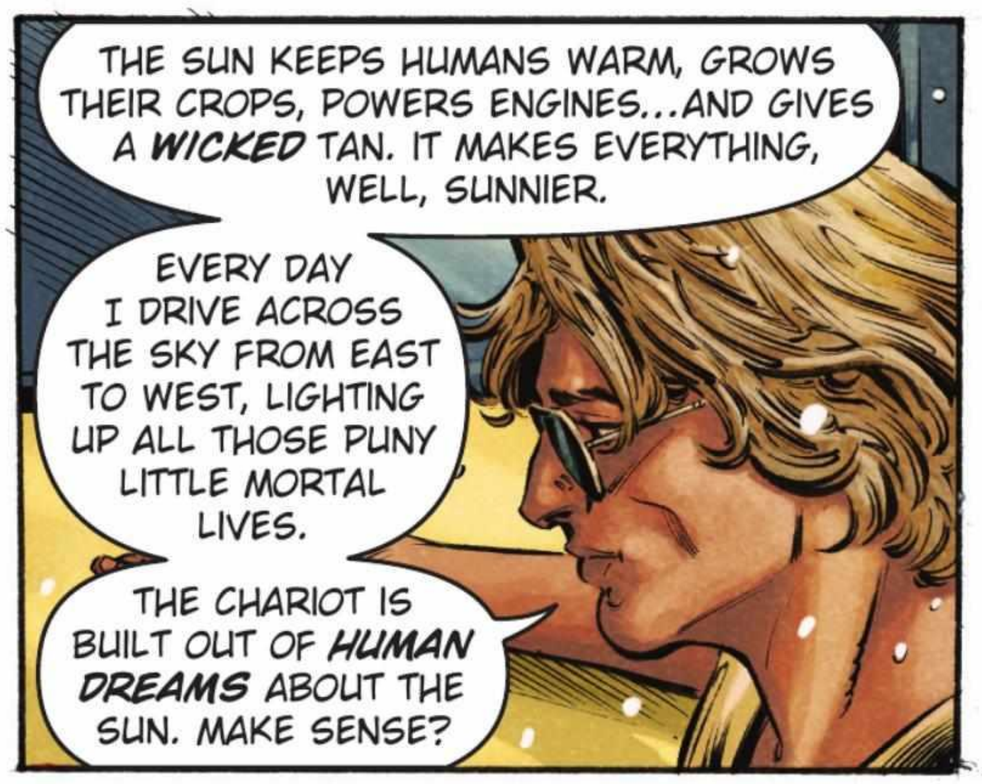
WELL, WE'D BETTER LOAD UP. RIDE ONLY GOES ONE WAY--WEST--AND IF YOU MISS IT, YOU MISS IT.
COOL CAR! BUT HOW'RE WE ALL GONNA FIT?

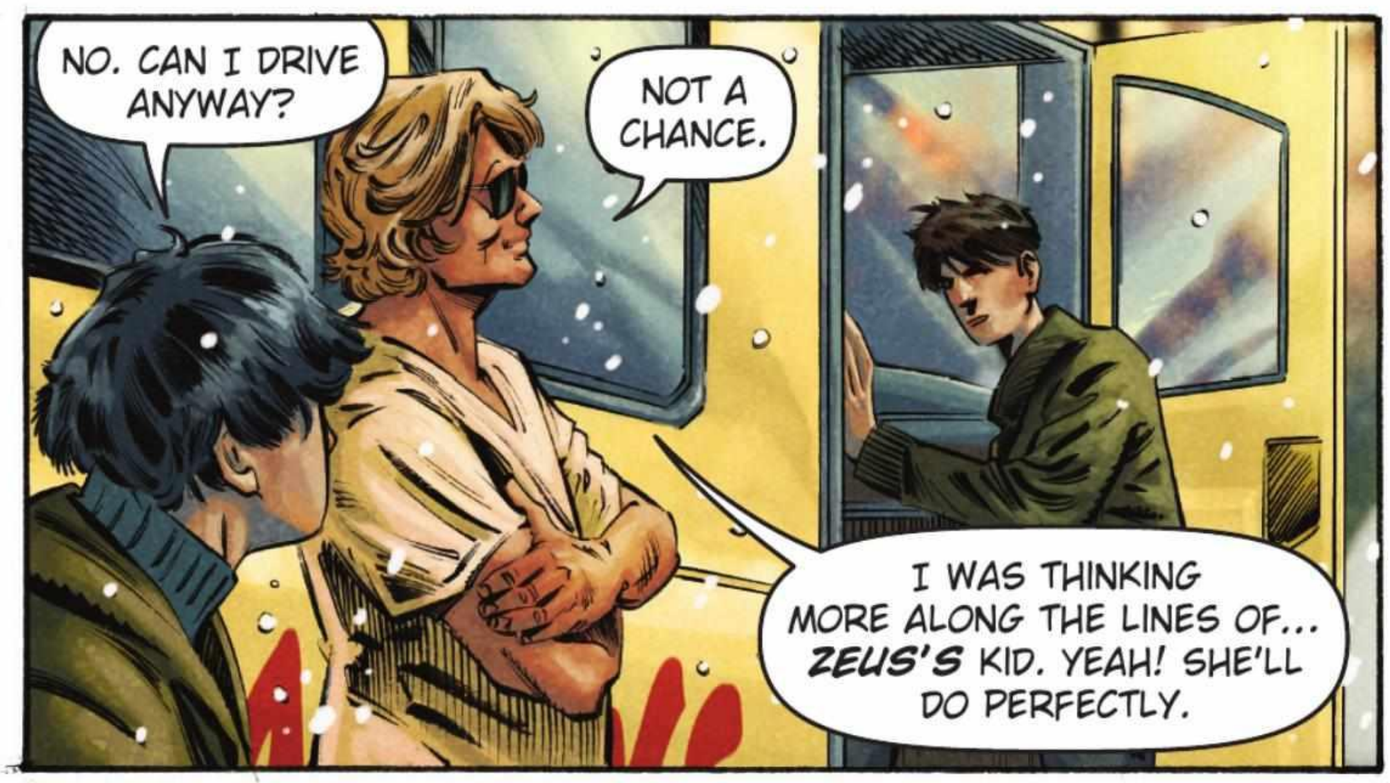
OH, RIGHT. I HATE TO CHANGE OUT OF SPORTS-CAR MODE, BUT I SUPPOSE...
CLICK

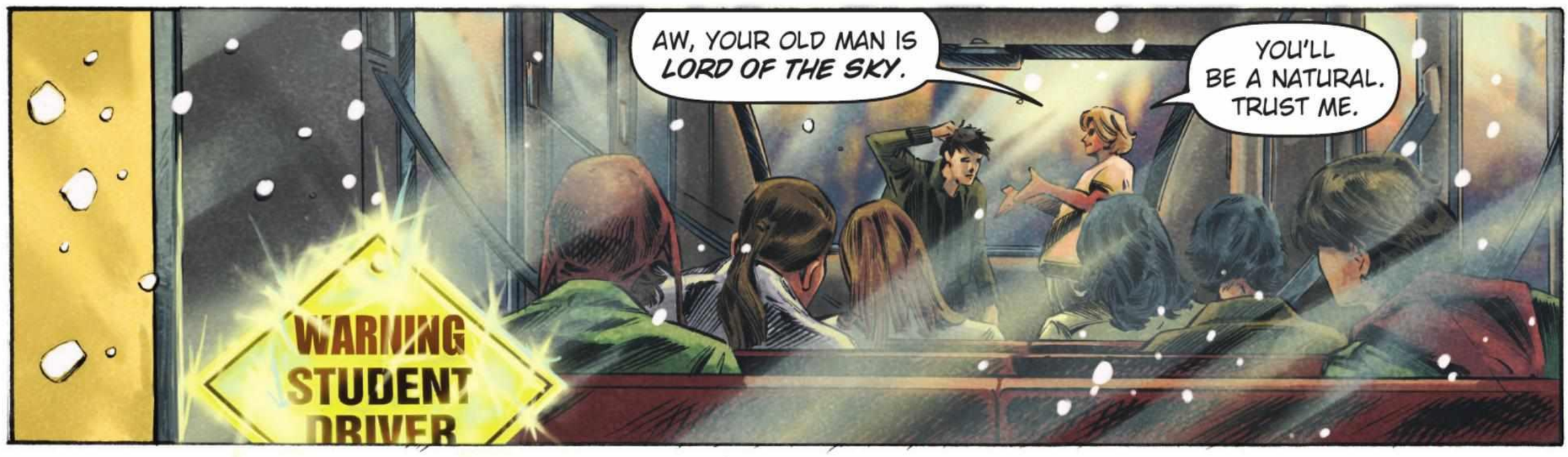
WOW! IS THIS *REALLY* THE SUN CHARIOT? HOW DOES IT WORK? I THOUGHT THE SUN WAS A BIG FIERY BALL OF GAS!

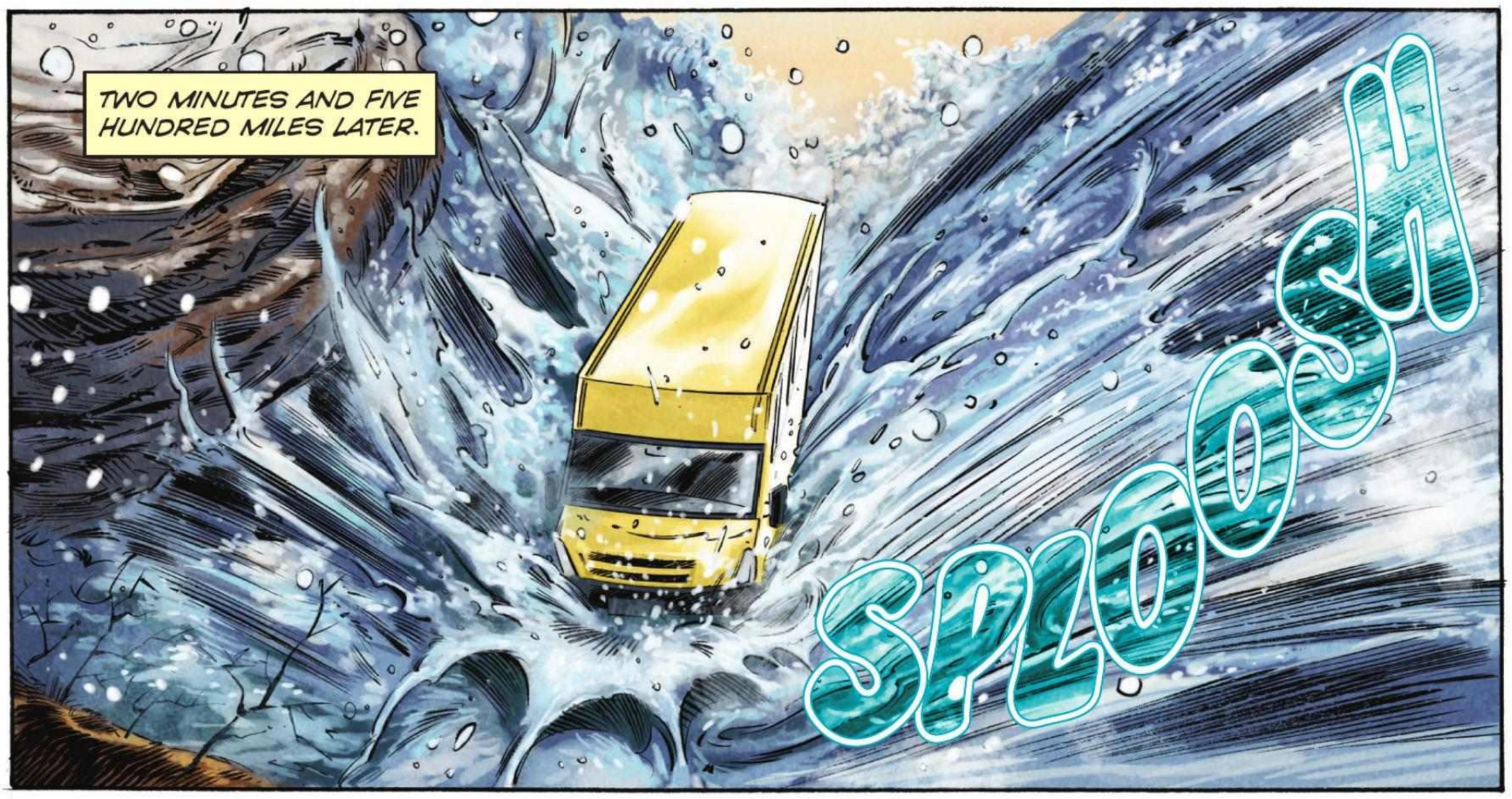
HEH. THAT RUMOR PROBABLY GOT STARTED BECAUSE ARTEMIS USED TO CALL *ME* A BIG FIERY BALL OF GAS.

SERIOUSLY, KID, IT'S NOT AN *ASTRONOMY* THING SO MUCH AS A *PHILOSOPHY* THING.









NOTE TO SELF: DO **NOT** -shrk- LET THALIA DRIVE.

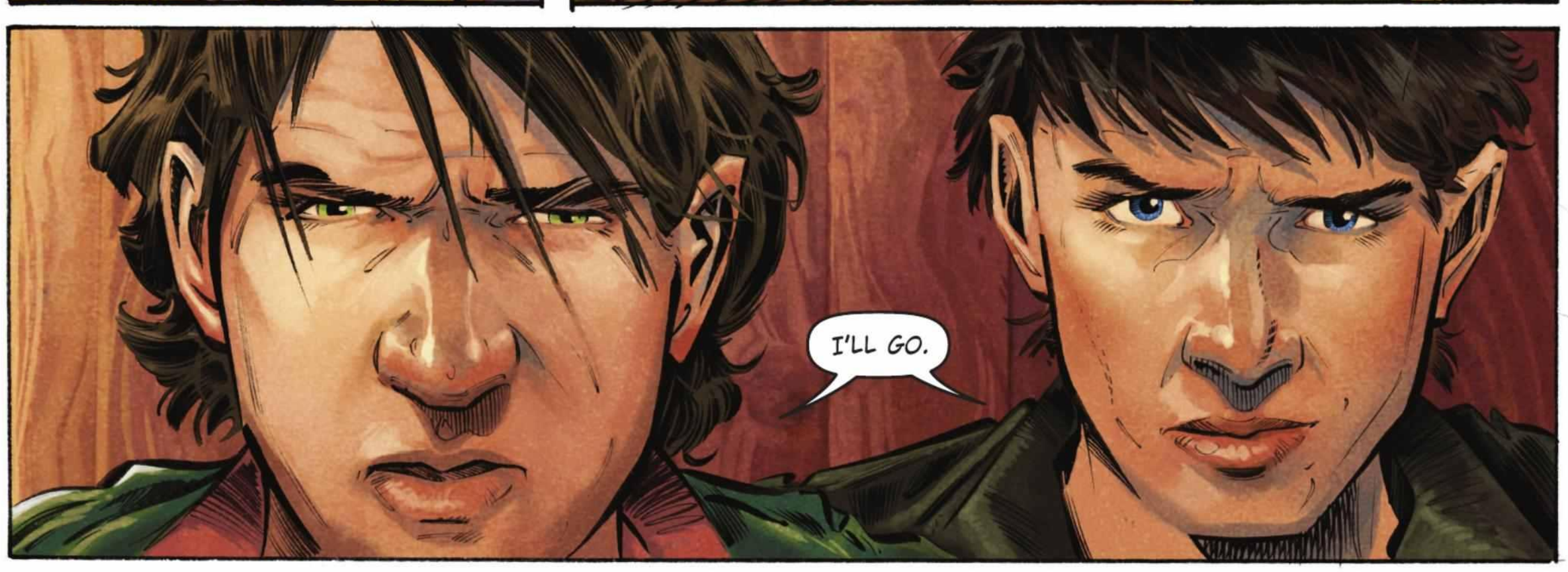
WHOA. IS THERE ***LAVA*** COMING OUT OF THAT CLIMBING WALL?

YEAH. IT PROVIDES A LITTLE EXTRA CHALLENGE.

COME ON, NICO. WE NEED TO REPORT TO CHIRON. HE'S A... WELL, YOU'LL SEE.

--THEN APOLLO BROUGHT US HERE, AND ARTEMIS LEFT FOR HER HUNT. WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT DOOMSDAY MONSTER THE MANTICORE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

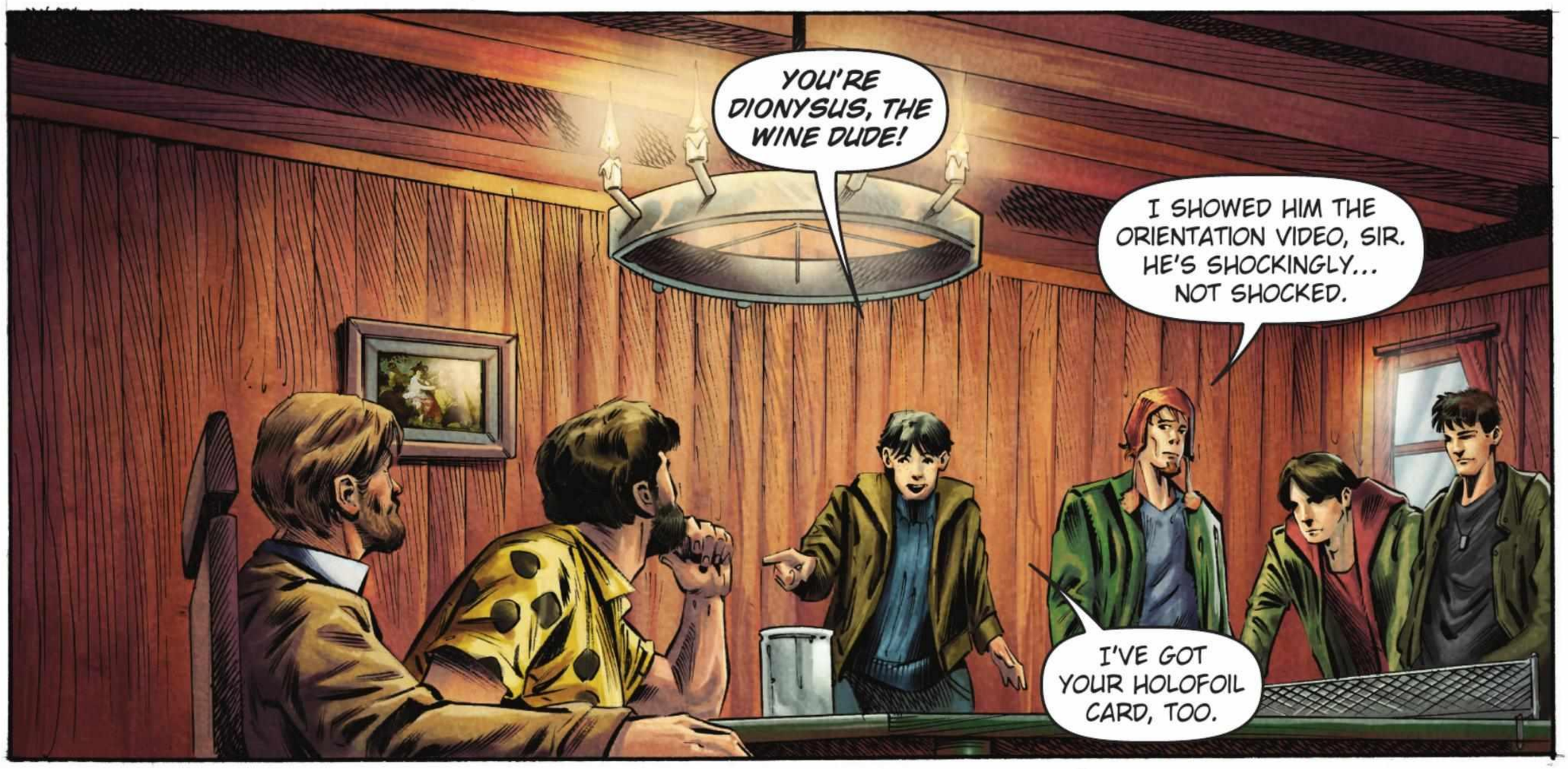
OR WHAT HAPPENED TO ANNABETH...
WE SHOULD LAUNCH A SEARCH PARTY FOR ANNABETH IMMEDIATELY.


I'LL GO.

CERTAINLY NOT. THE POSSIBILITY IS VERY GREAT THAT THIS ANNIE BELL GIRL IS -yawn- ALREADY DEAD.
ANNABETH.
SHE MAY YET BE ALIVE, MR. D.
SHE'S VERY BRIGHT. IF OUR ENEMIES HAVE HER, SHE WILL TRY TO PLAY FOR TIME. SHE MAY EVEN PRETEND TO COOPERATE WITH THEM.
IF SHE IS-- AGAINST ALL ODDS-- ALIVE, THEN SHE WILL HAVE TO BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO ESCAPE ON HER OWN.

YOU'RE GLAD TO LOSE ANOTHER CAMPER! YOU'D LIKE IT IF WE ALL DISAPPEARED!
YOU KNOW, JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE SENT HERE TO BE CAMP DIRECTOR AS PUNISHMENT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO BE A LAZY JERK!

MIND YOURSELF, BOY, OR--
NO WAY!

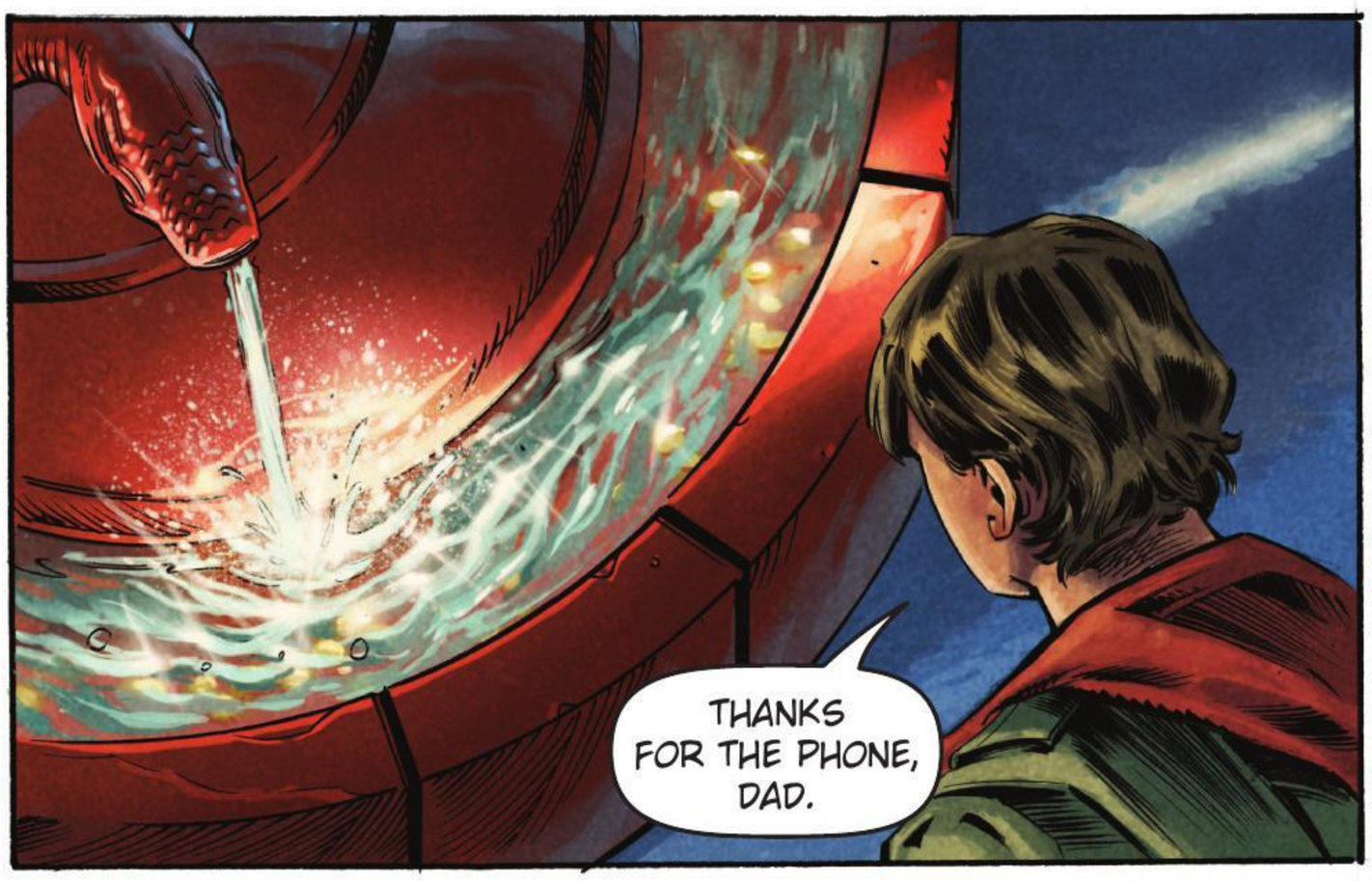

YOU'RE DIONYSUS, THE WINE DUDE!
I SHOWED HIM THE ORIENTATION VIDEO, SIR. HE'S SHOCKINGLY... NOT SHOCKED.
I'VE GOT YOUR HOLOFOIL CARD, TOO.

EVEN THOUGH YOU ONLY HAVE, LIKE, FIVE HUNDRED ATTACK POINTS, AND EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE THE LAMEST GOD EVER, I THINK YOUR POWERS ARE TOTALLY SWEET!
AH. WELL, THAT'S GRATIFYING.

PERCY, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR EXIT. BEFORE MR. D REMEMBERS THAT YOU INSULTED HIM.
YOU AND THALIA GO TO YOUR CABINS AND REST. I'LL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE A GAME OF CAPTURE THE FLAG.

CAPTURE THE FLAG? BUT WHAT ABOUT ANNABETH?
WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING!
THE GAME IS A TRADITION. A FRIENDLY MATCH, WHENEVER THE HUNTERS COME TO VISIT.

YEAH. I BET IT'S REAL FRIENDLY.


THANKS FOR THE PHONE, DAD.

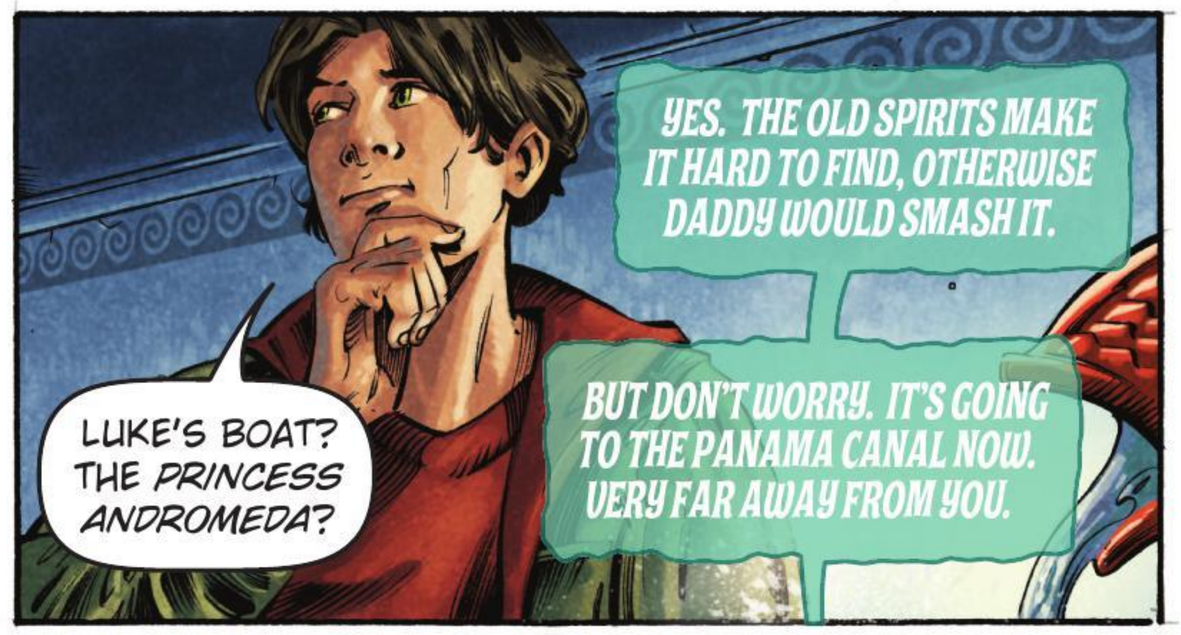
I COULD USE A LITTLE CHEERING UP.

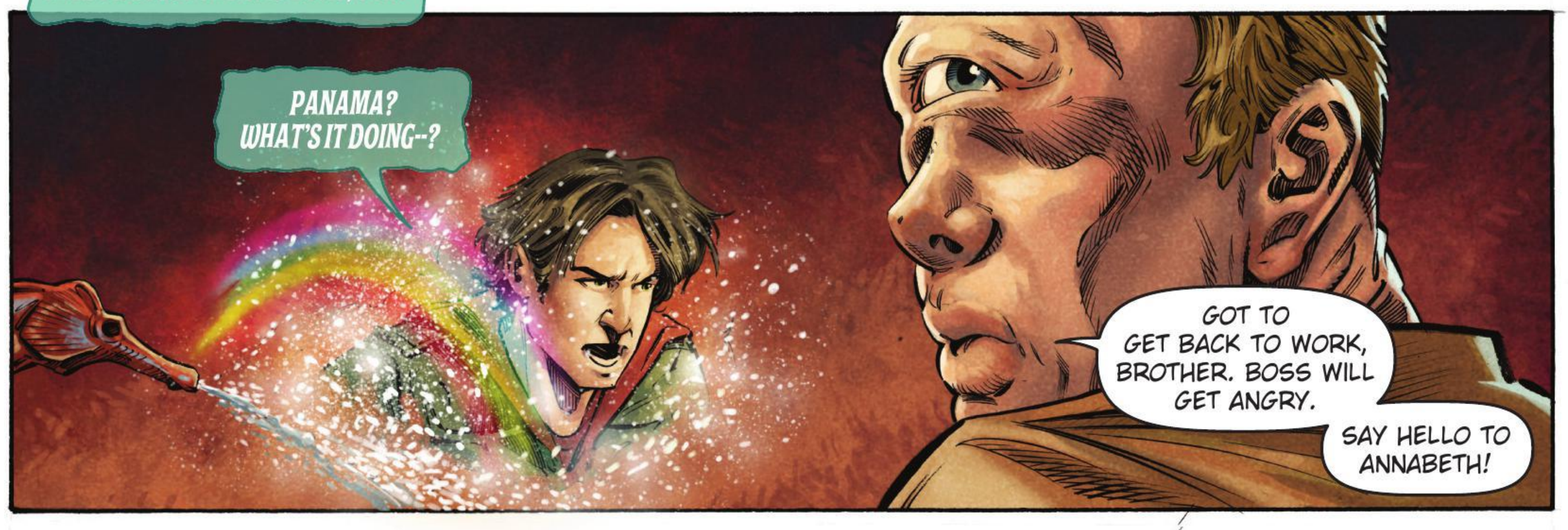
SHOW ME TYSON AT THE FORGES OF THE CYCLOPES.
PLEASE HOLD.

BROTHER!
HEY, BIG GUY! HOW'S YOUR INTERNSHIP GOING?

I LOVE THE JOB! WE ARE ARMING THE MERMAIDS NOW. THEY NEED A THOUSAND MORE SWORDS BY TOMORROW.
I MADE THIS ONE ALL BY MYSELF. LOOK!
NICE ONE!
HOW'S DAD? YOU GET TO TALK TO HIM MUCH?
CLANK
CLINK

NO. DADDY IS VERY BUSY. WORRIED ABOUT THE WAR.
OLD SEA SPIRITS, AIGAIOS AND OCEANUS, ARE MAKING TROUBLE. THEY PROTECT THE BAD BOAT, TOO.


YES. THE OLD SPIRITS MAKE IT HARD TO FIND, OTHERWISE DADDY WOULD SMASH IT.
LUKE'S BOAT? THE PRINCESS ANDROMEDA?
BUT DON'T WORRY. IT'S GOING TO THE PANAMA CANAL NOW. VERY FAR AWAY FROM YOU.


PANAMA? WHAT'S IT DOING--?
GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK, BROTHER. BOSS WILL GET ANGRY.
SAY HELLO TO ANNABETH!

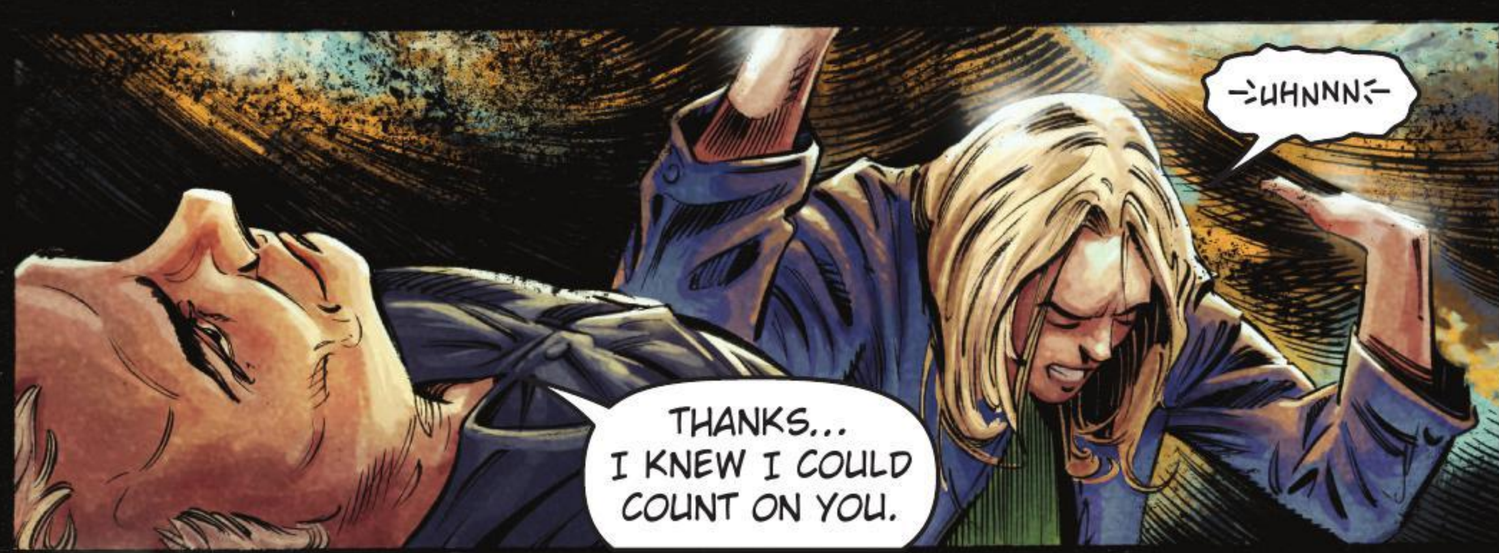
RIGHT.

BELIEVE ME, I WISH I COULD.

WHERE AM I? WHY HAVE I BEEN BROUGHT HERE?

LUKE...?
ANNABETH!
THEY LEFT ME HERE. PLEASE... IT'S KILLING ME!

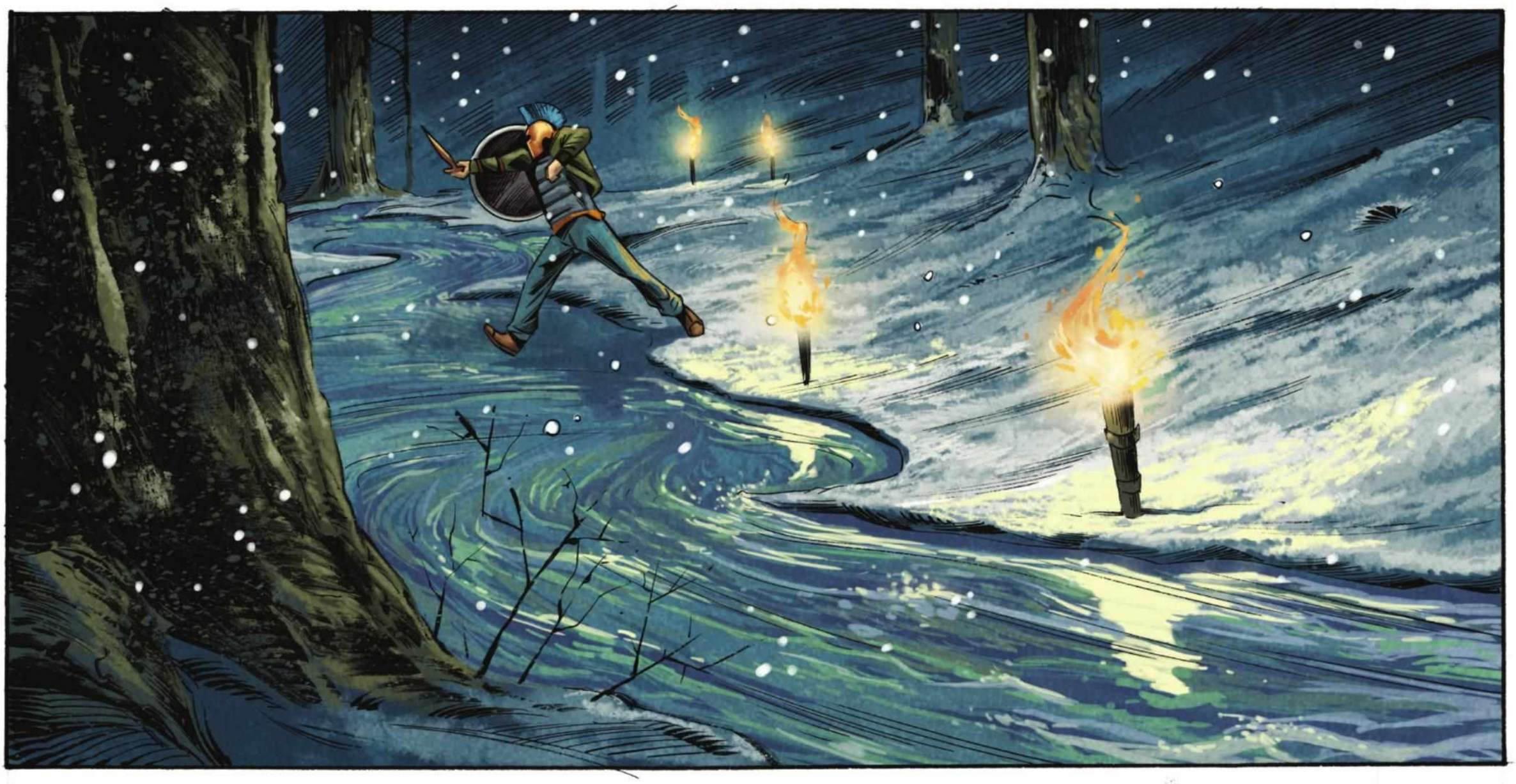
I'LL HELP YOU!


-UHNNN-
THANKS... I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

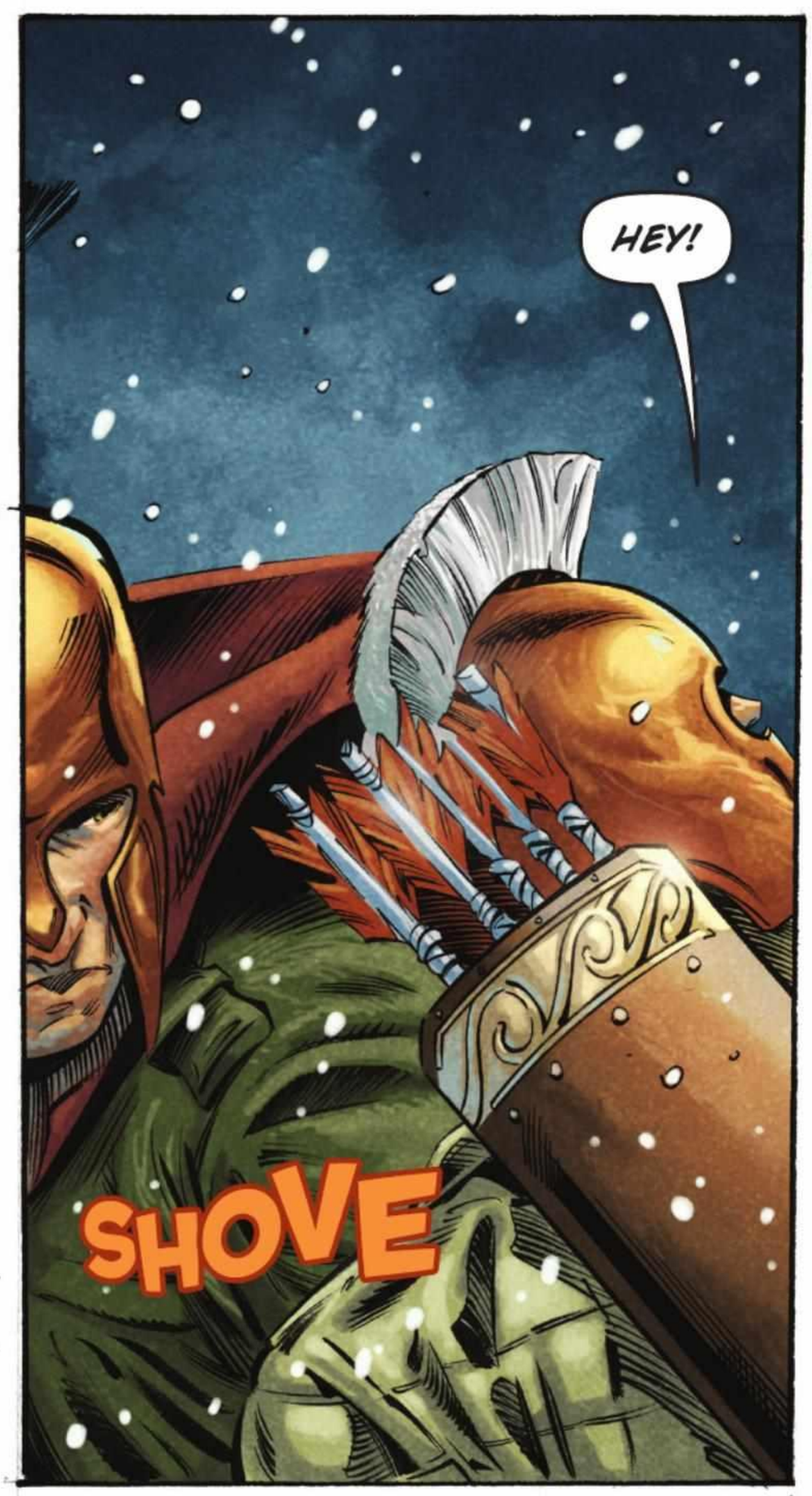
DON'T WORRY, HELP IS ON THE WAY. IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN.
NO! DON'T GO!

HELP ME!

AH!
ANNABETH...

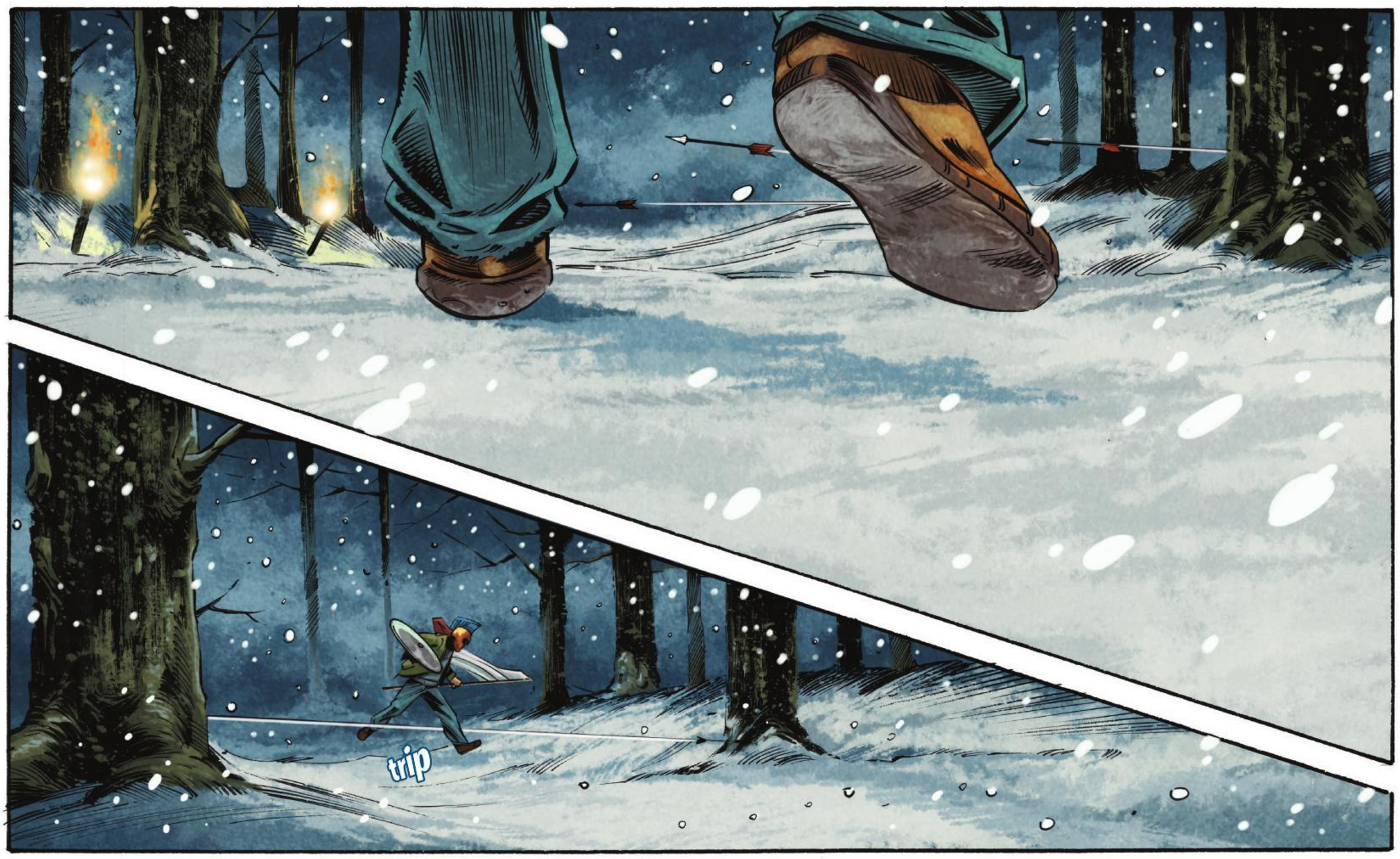


-HUFF-
-HUFF-

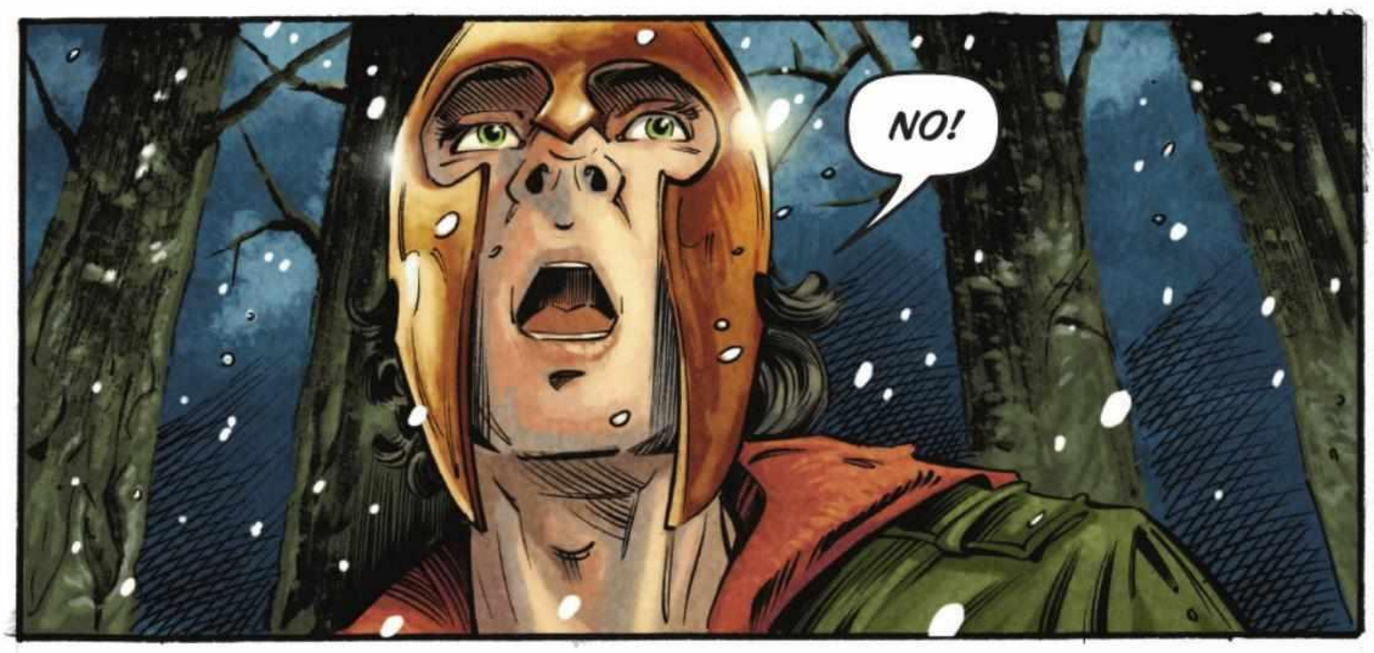

HEY!
SHOVE

GOT THEIR FLAG!

-HUFF-


trip

PERCY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
NO FAIR! -cough- GAS ARROWS ARE UNSPORTSMANLIKE! -cough- -hack-
-nff-
SSSS
ALMOST THERE!


NO!

OUT OF MY WAY!
-whuff-

GO ZOË!

THE HUNTERS ARE VICTORIOUS.
FOR THE *FIFTY-SIXTH* TIME IN A ROW....

WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE GODS WERE YOU THINKING, PERCY?!

I GOT THE FLAG! I SAW A CHANCE, AND I TOOK IT!
YOU MEAN YOU SAW A CHANCE TO GO SOLO! GOOD THING THIS WAS ONLY A GAME, OR WE MIGHT'VE LOST SOMEONE.
AGAIN!

ZZAP
ARGH!

SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

-gasp-
SPLOOSH!

YEAH. ME NEITHER.

YOU WANT SOME, HERO?

ZZZAT
NNGH!

BRING IT ON!

HUH?

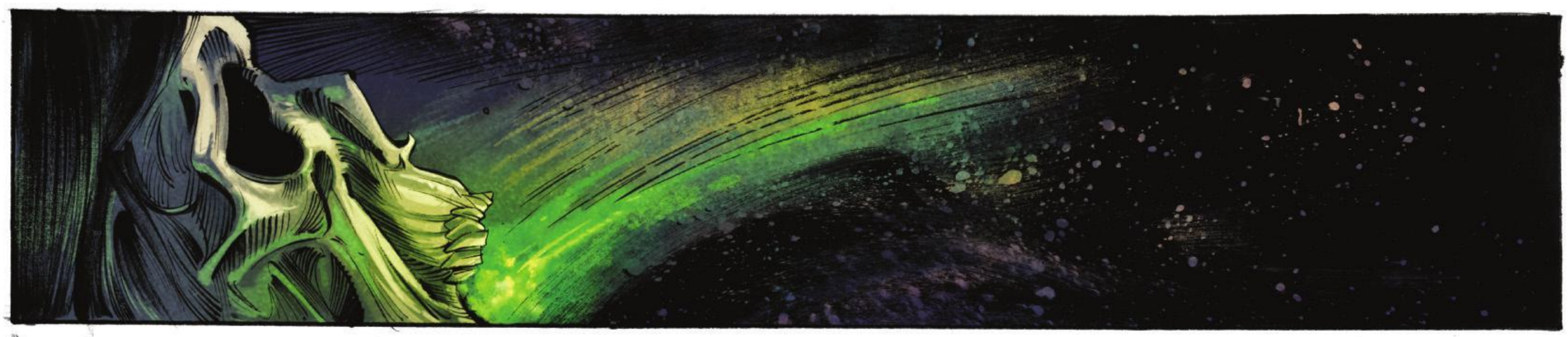
WHAT IS IT?

I AM THE SSSPIRIT OF DELPHI, SPEAKER OF THE PROPHECIES OF PHOEBUSSS APOLLO, SLAYER OF THE MIGHTY PYTHON.

APPROACH, SEEKER, AND ASSSK.
WHAT MUST I DO TO HELP MY GODDESS?

FIVE SHALL GO WESSST TO THE GODDESS IN CHAINS, ONE SHALL BE LOSSST IN THE LAND WITHOUT RAIN.
THE BANE OF OLYMPUSSS SHOWS THE TRAIL--

--CAMPERS AND HUNTERS COMBINED PREVAIL.
THE TITAN'S CURSE MUSSST ONE WITHSTAND, AND ONE SHALL PERISH BY A PARENT'S HAND.



THERE IS NO TIME FOR TALK. 'TIS AS I HAVE DREAMED--ARTEMIS IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE. WE MUST FIND HER AND FREE HER.
I WILL DEPART WITH THE HUNTERS AT ONCE.

YOU HAD A DREAM? BECAUSE I--
YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING, AS USUAL, ZOË. "CAMPERS AND HUNTERS COMBINED PREVAIL." WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS TOGETHER.
I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER, BUT YOU KNOW PROPHECIES. YOU WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST ONE?

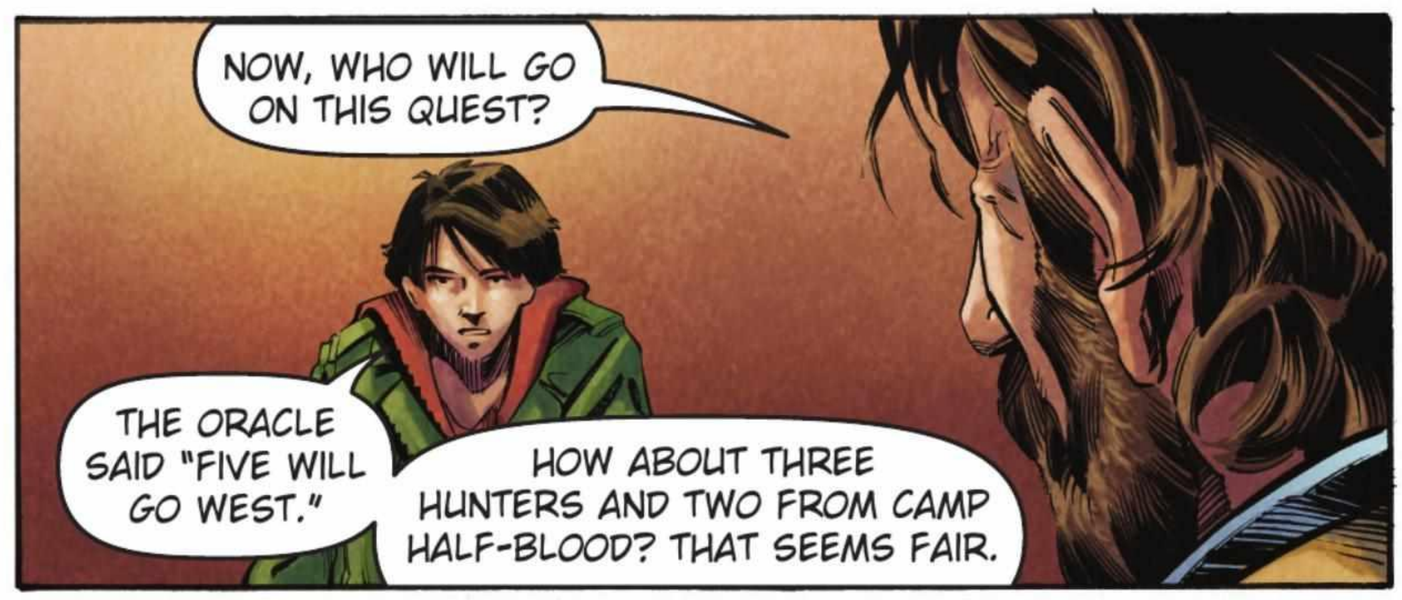
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THE "BANE OF OLYMPUS" IS? SOUNDS KIND OF NOT-GOOD.
I HAVE HUNTED AT LADY ARTEMIS'S SIDE FOR MANY YEARS, YET I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS BEAST MIGHT BE.

Chateau

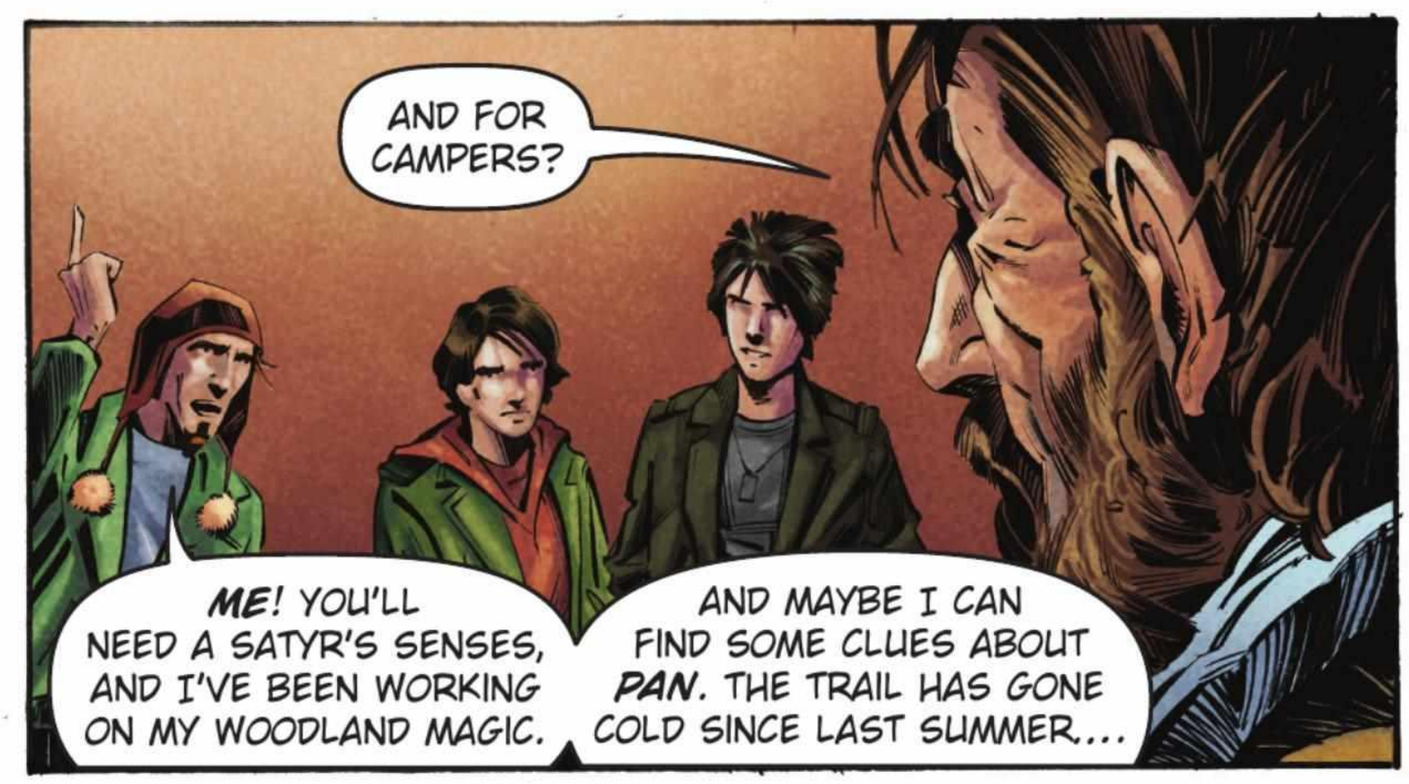
WELL, DON'T LOOK AT ME. I'M A YOUNG GOD, REMEMBER?
I DON'T KEEP TRACK OF ALL THOSE ANCIENT MONSTERS. IT MAKES FOR TERRIBLE PARTY CONVERSATION.
TYPHON AND KETO ARE CERTAINLY BANES OF OLYMPUS, BUT THEY ARE BOTH SEA MONSTERS THE SIZE OF SKYSCRAPERS. IF THEY WERE STIRRING, POSEIDON WOULD ALREADY HAVE SOUNDED THE ALARM.

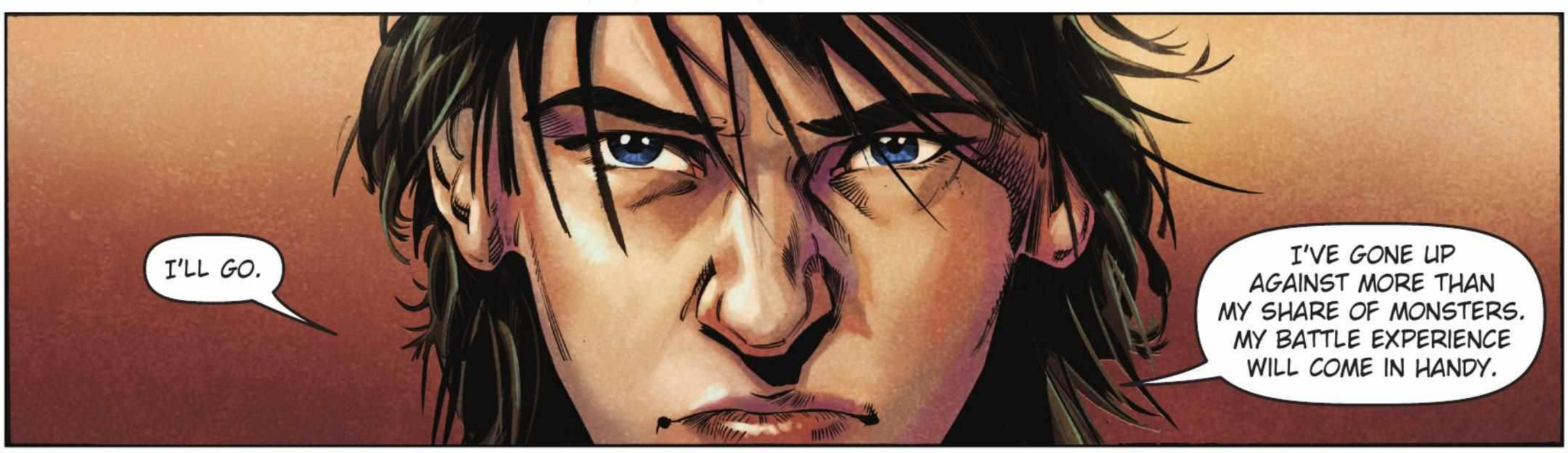
I FEAR THE ORACLE SPOKE OF SOMETHING MORE ELUSIVE. AND POWERFUL.

TIME IS ALREADY SHORT. FIVE DAYS FROM NOW IS DECEMBER 21ST, THE WINTER SOLSTICE. ARTEMIS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE COUNCIL.
SHE IS THE MOST VOCAL PROPONENT OF ACTION AGAINST KRONOS'S ARMIES. IF SHE IS ABSENT, THE GODS WILL DECIDE NOTHING. AND WE WILL LOSE ANOTHER YEAR OF WAR PREPARATIONS.


NOW, WHO WILL GO ON THIS QUEST?
THE ORACLE SAID "FIVE WILL GO WEST."
HOW ABOUT THREE HUNTERS AND TWO FROM CAMP HALF-BLOOD? THAT SEEMS FAIR.

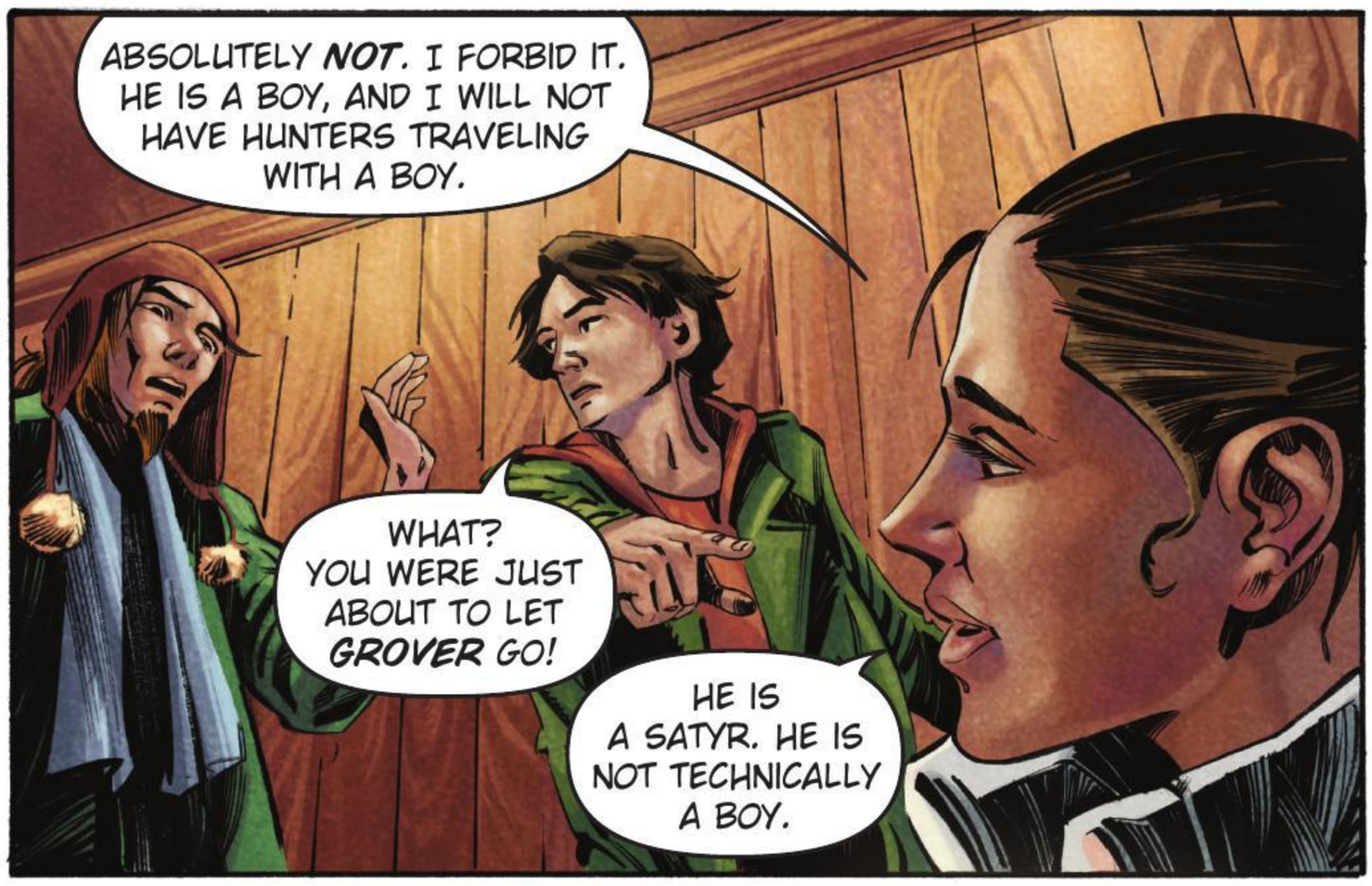
SO BE IT. PHOEBE IS OUR BEST TRACKER. I WILL TAKE HER.
I ALSO WISH BIANCA TO GO.
SHE MAY BE OUR NEWEST, BUT THERE IS NO BETTER WAY FOR HER TO PROVE HERSELF.


AND FOR CAMPERS?
ME! YOU'LL NEED A SATYR'S SENSES, AND I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY WOODLAND MAGIC.
AND MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME CLUES ABOUT PAN. THE TRAIL HAS GONE COLD SINCE LAST SUMMER....


I'LL GO.
I'VE GONE UP AGAINST MORE THAN MY SHARE OF MONSTERS. MY BATTLE EXPERIENCE WILL COME IN HANDY.

HOLD ON A SEC. ZOË ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH DREAMS. I HAD A REAL DOOZY THE OTHER NIGHT. I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANT, BUT I KNOW ANNABETH NEEDS HELP.
I WANT IN ON THIS QUEST, TOO!

OH, RIGHT. I DIDN'T MEAN...
PERCY SHOULD GO IN MY PLACE. ABSOLUTELY.


ABSOLUTELY NOT. I FORBID IT. HE IS A BOY, AND I WILL NOT HAVE HUNTERS TRAVELING WITH A BOY.
WHAT? YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO LET GROVER GO!
HE IS A SATYR. HE IS NOT TECHNICALLY A BOY.

I INSIST UPON THIS.
I WILL TAKE A SATYR IF I MUST, BUT NOT A MALE HALF-BLOOD.

WHO MADE HER BOSS? CHIRON, TELL HER I CAN GO!
THE QUEST IS FOR ARTEMIS. THE HUNTERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE THEIR COMPANIONS.

SO BE IT. THALIA AND GROVER WILL ACCOMPANY ZOË, BIANCA, AND PHOEBE.

YOU SHALL LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT.
AND MAY THE GODS BE WITH YOU.

I'M SORRY, PERCY.
I WAS SO FOCUSED ON SEARCHING FOR PAN. I WASN'T THINKING... BUT I PROMISE, I'LL LOOK EVERYWHERE FOR ANNABETH.
IF I CAN FIND HER, I WILL.
I KNOW. THANKS.

I KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, CHILD.
THALIA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE TO GO ON THIS QUEST. SHE ACTS WITHOUT THINKING. SHE IS TOO SURE OF HERSELF.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK UP FOR ME?

YOU AND THALIA ARE MUCH ALIKE. THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU ARE LESS SURE OF YOURSELF THAN THALIA. THAT COULD BE GOOD OR BAD.
BUT ONE THING I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY: BOTH OF YOU TOGETHER WOULD BE A DANGEROUS THING.

WE COULD HANDLE IT.
THE WAY YOU HANDLED IT AT THE CREEK TONIGHT?

CALL YOUR MOTHER AND TELL HER YOU'LL BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. SHE WILL APPRECIATE THE NEWS.
THE QUEST IS IN ABLE HANDS. IF WE NEED YOU--

"--WE'LL CALL."

THUMP
THUMP

YO, BOSS!
BLACKJACK? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE STABLES.

MEH. YOU SEE CHIRON STAYING IN THE STABLES?
WELL... NO.
EXACTLY.

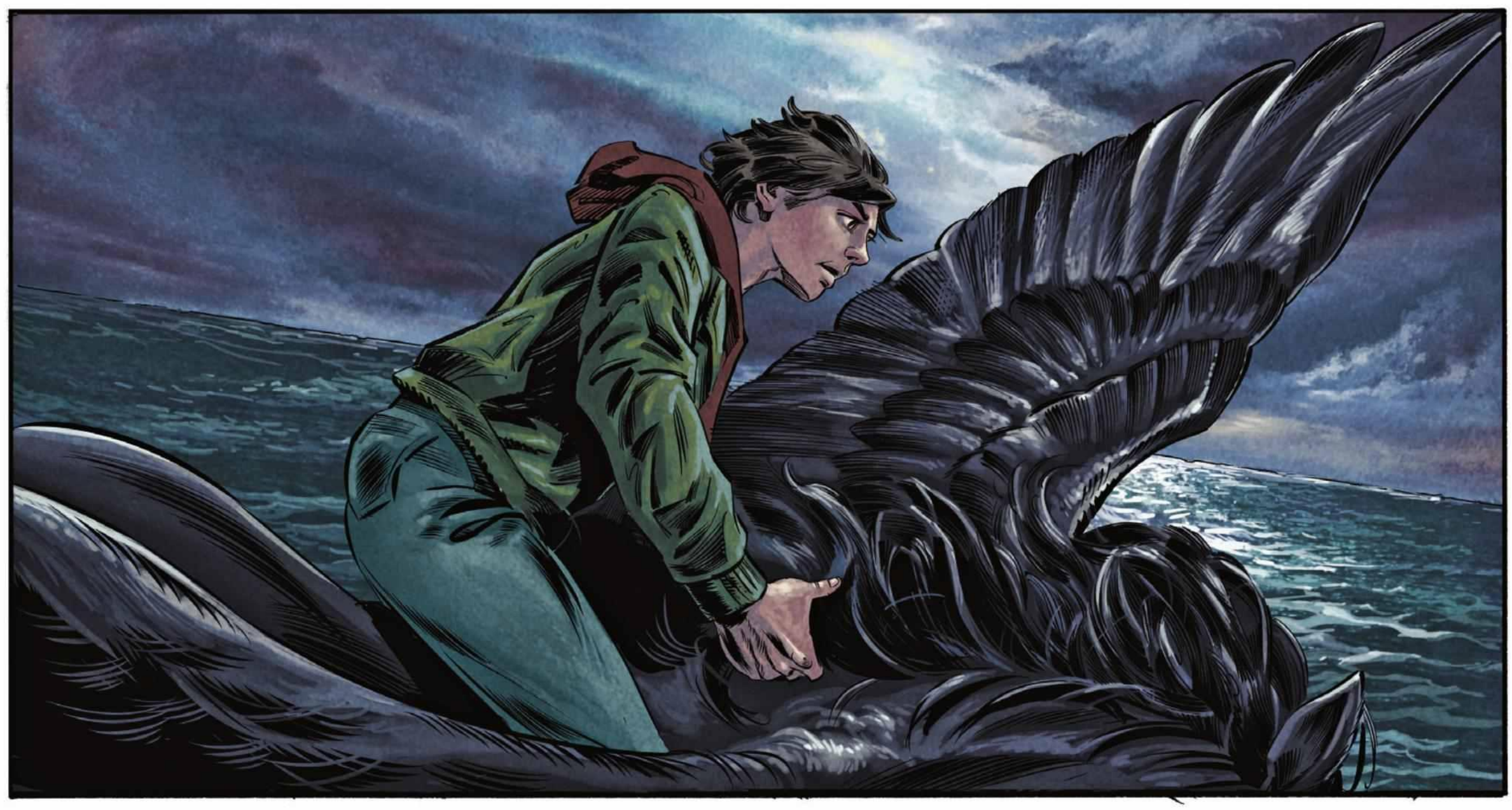
LISTEN, THERE'S A LITTLE SEA FRIEND THAT NEEDS YOUR HELP. I TOLD THE HIPPOCAMPI I'D COME GET YOU.

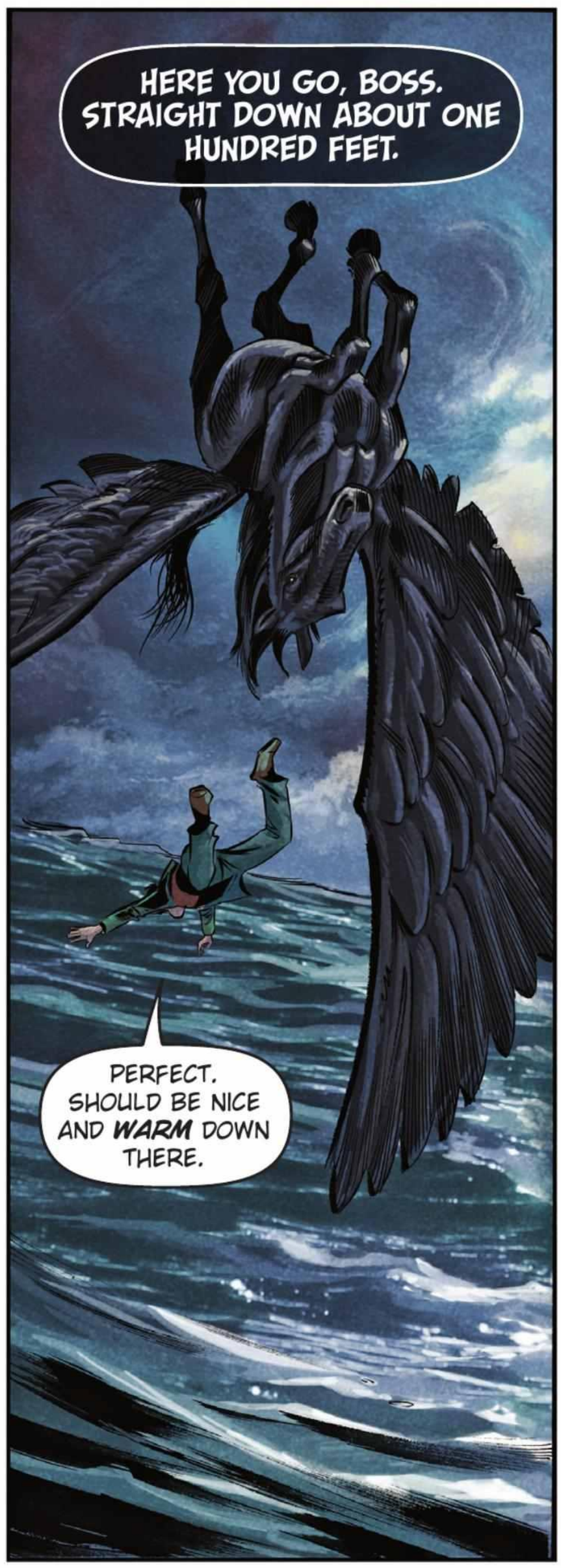
AGAIN?
SORRY, BOSS. WHO ELSE AM I GONNA TELL? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE THAT SPEAKS HORSE.

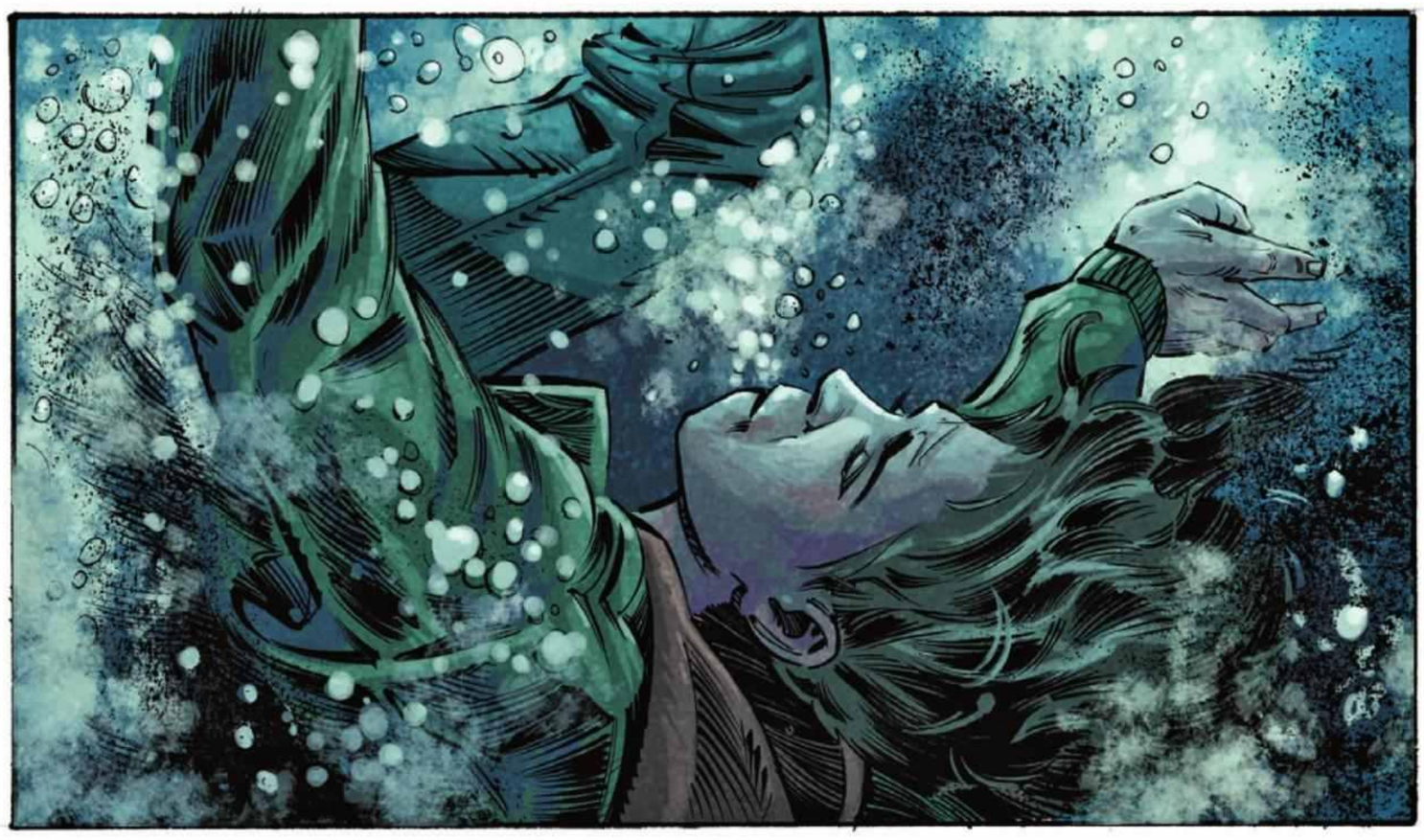
RIGHT. ONE OF THE PERKS OF MY DAD BEING THE GUY WHO CREATED HORSES OUT OF SEA FOAM.
I'LL BE SURE TO THANK HIM FOR *THAT* ONE.

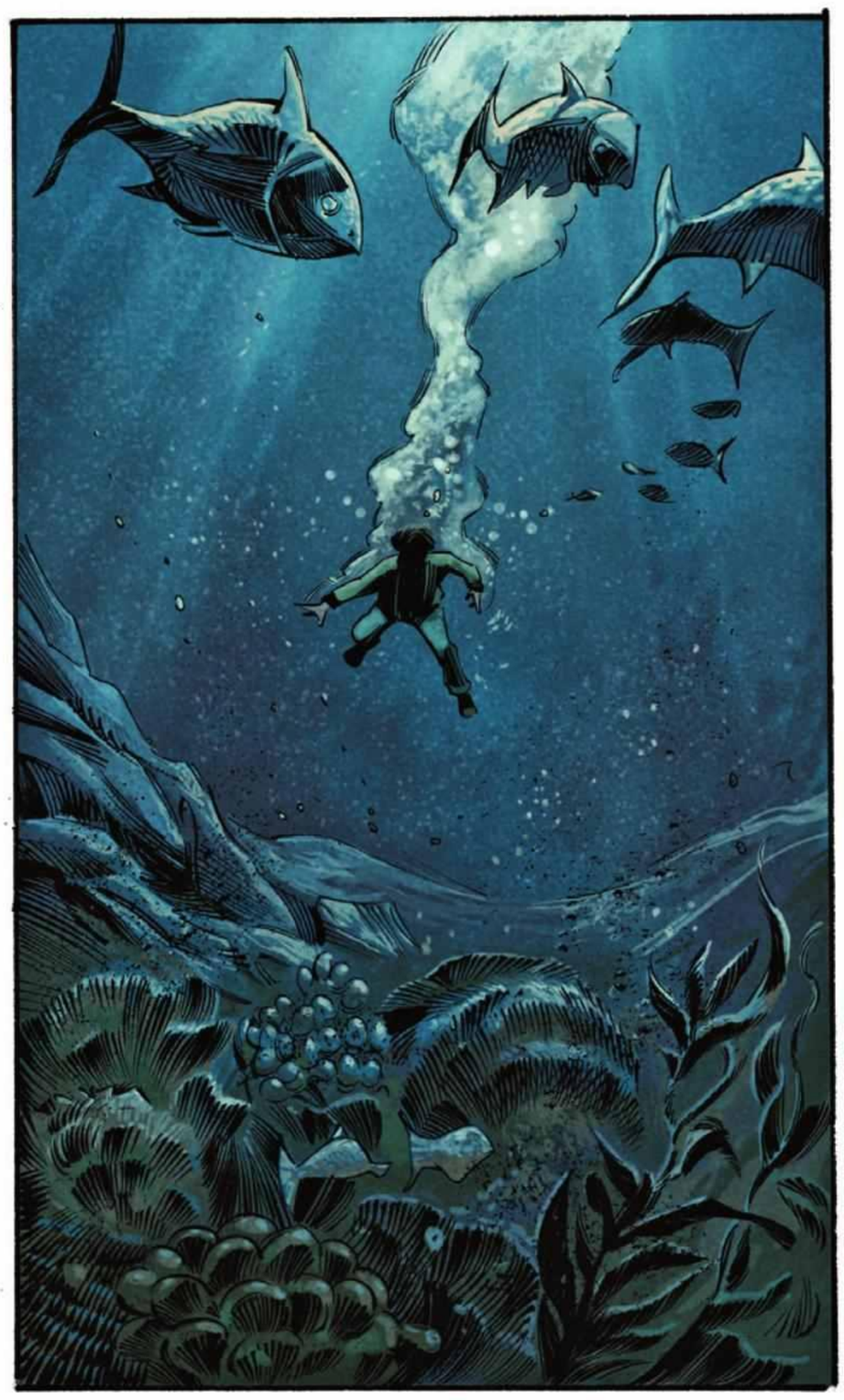
AND DO ME A FAVOR, WILL YOU? STOP CALLING ME "BOSS."
I KNOW YOU THINK I GOT THE CENTAURS TO STORM LUKE'S SHIP LAST SUMMER AND HELP YOU GO FREE, BUT THAT WAS ALL CHIRON'S DOING. REALLY.

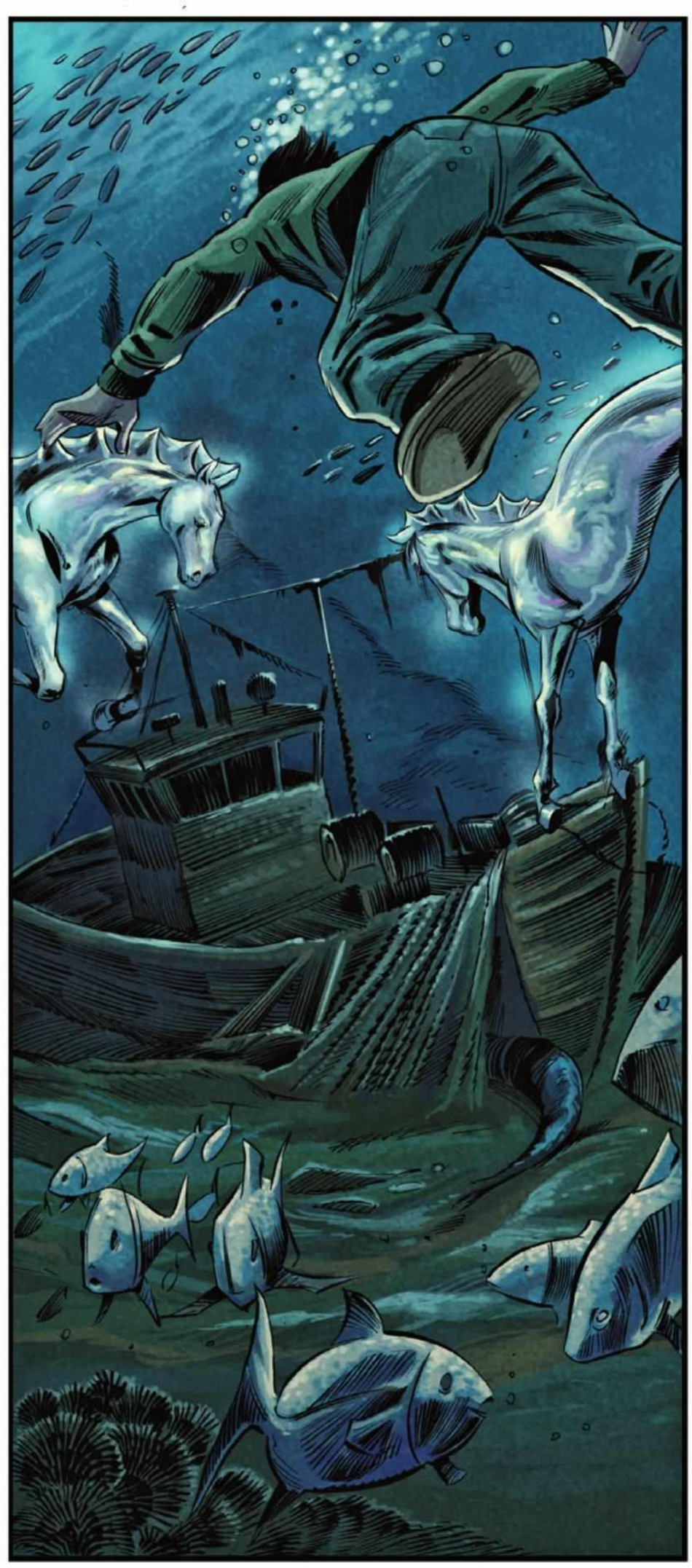
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS. YOU'RE THE MAN. YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE.




HERE YOU GO, BOSS. STRAIGHT DOWN ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FEET.
PERFECT. SHOULD BE NICE AND *WARM* DOWN THERE.





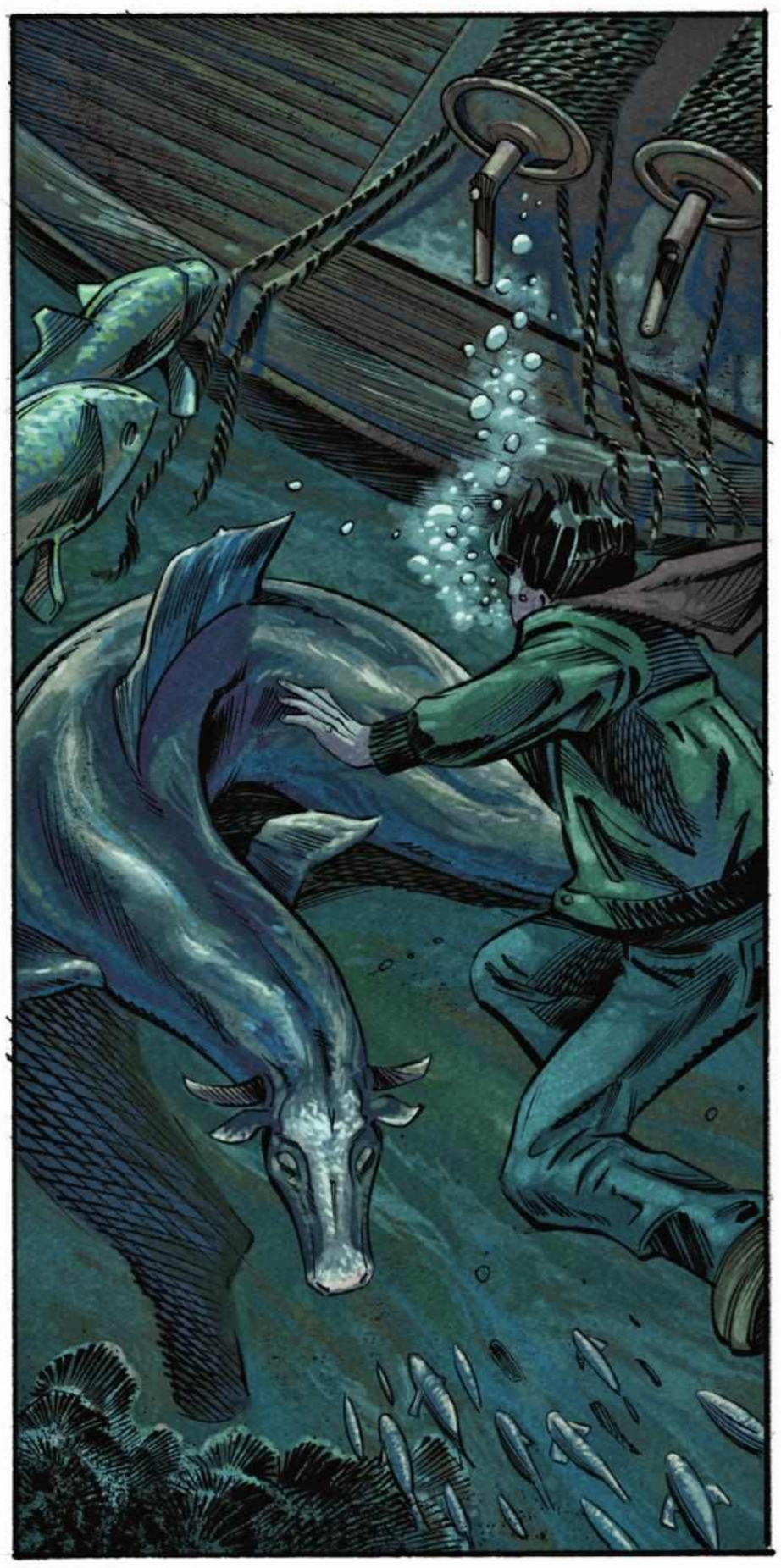


Free it, lord!
We don't know what it is.
Many strange things are stirring.

MooOOo!
WHOA!

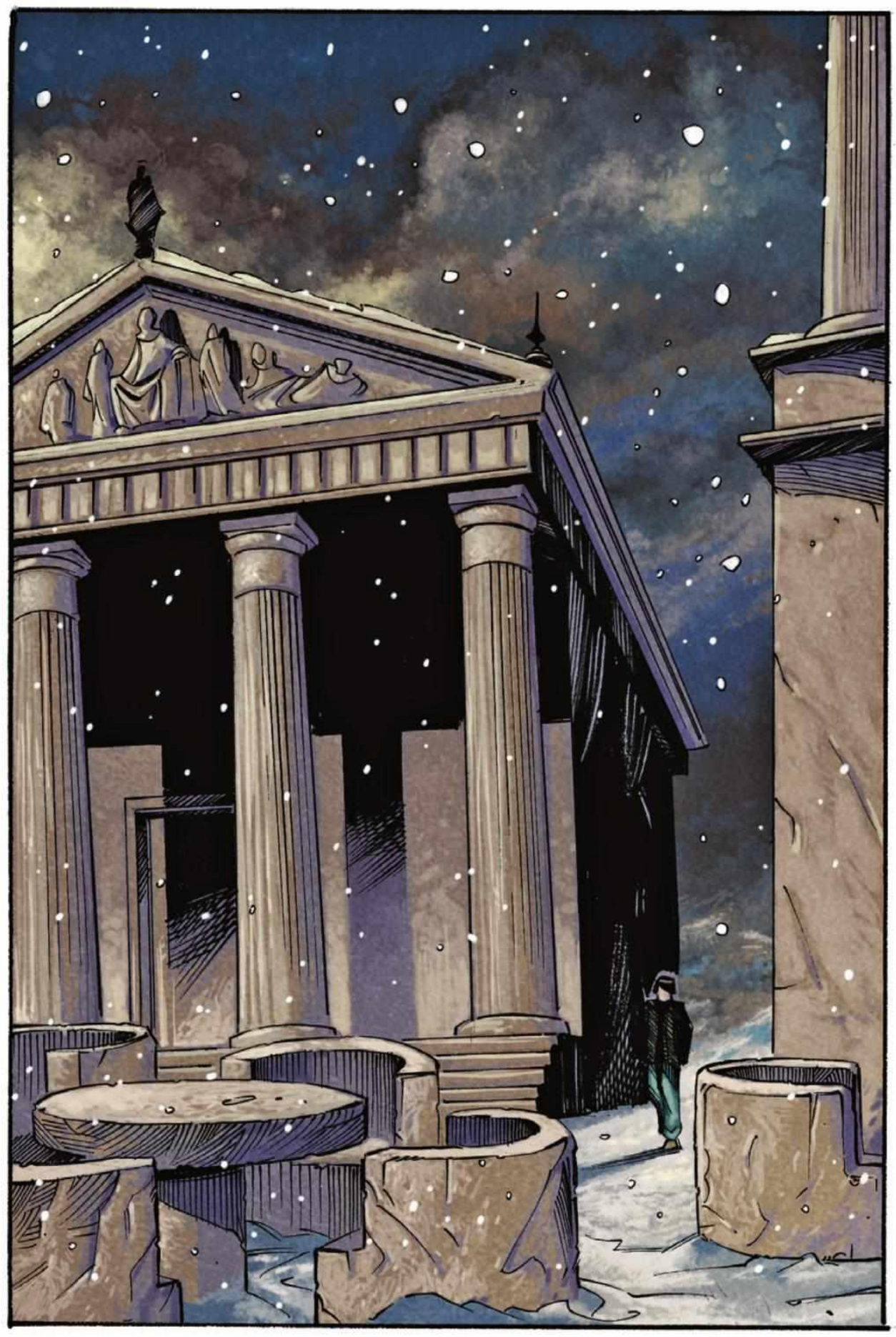
I'LL SAY...
TAKE IT EASY, LITTLE ONE. I'LL CUT THE NET.
Moo!

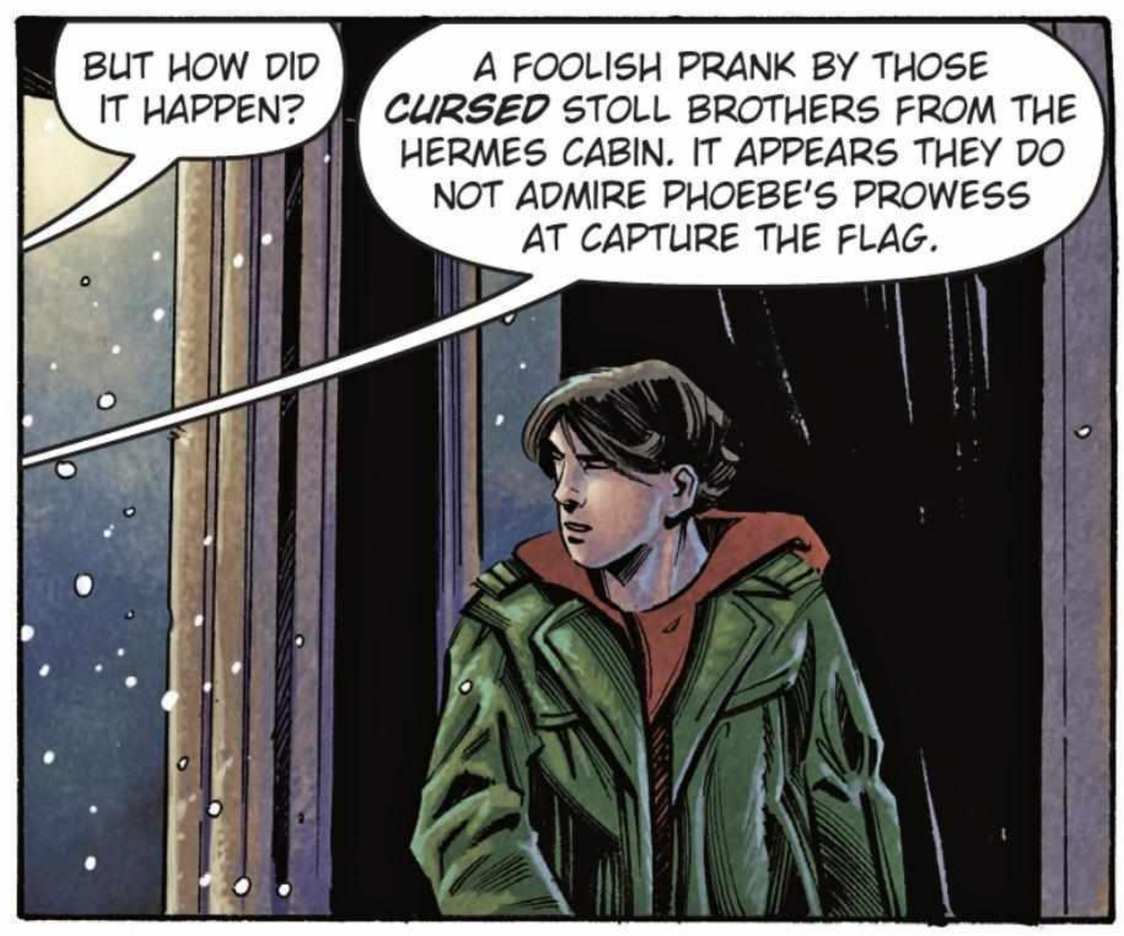
OKAY. NO MORE SWORD, SEE?
SETTLE DOWN, BESSIE. GOOD COW.



MOO!
NICE COW. YOU STAY OUT OF TROUBLE NOW, BESSIE.

Thank you, lord!
NO PROBLEM. IT'S NICE TO KNOW I CAN STILL SAVE *SOMETHING*.




BUT HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
A FOOLISH PRANK BY THOSE *CURSED* STOLL BROTHERS FROM THE HERMES CABIN. IT APPEARS THEY DO NOT ADMIRE PHOEBE'S PROWESS AT CAPTURE THE FLAG.

SHE WILL BE BEDRIDDEN WITH HIVES FOR WEEKS. THERE IS NO WAY SHE CAN TAKE PART IN THE QUEST. IT IS UP TO ME...AND THEE.
BUT THE PROPHECY... IF PHOEBE CAN'T GO, WE ONLY HAVE *FOUR*. WE'LL HAVE TO PICK SOMEONE ELSE.

THERE IS NO TIME. WE MUST LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT. THAT IS IMMEDIATELY.
YOU SHOULD TELL THALIA THE REST OF YOUR DREAM.
IF YOUR SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE GENERAL ARE TRUE--

I HAVE *THY WORD* NOT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

NOW COME. DAWN IS BREAKING.

SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

NICO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SPYING, SAME AS YOU.
YOU HEARD BIANCA. THEY NEED OUR HELP. SO LET'S FOLLOW THEM.

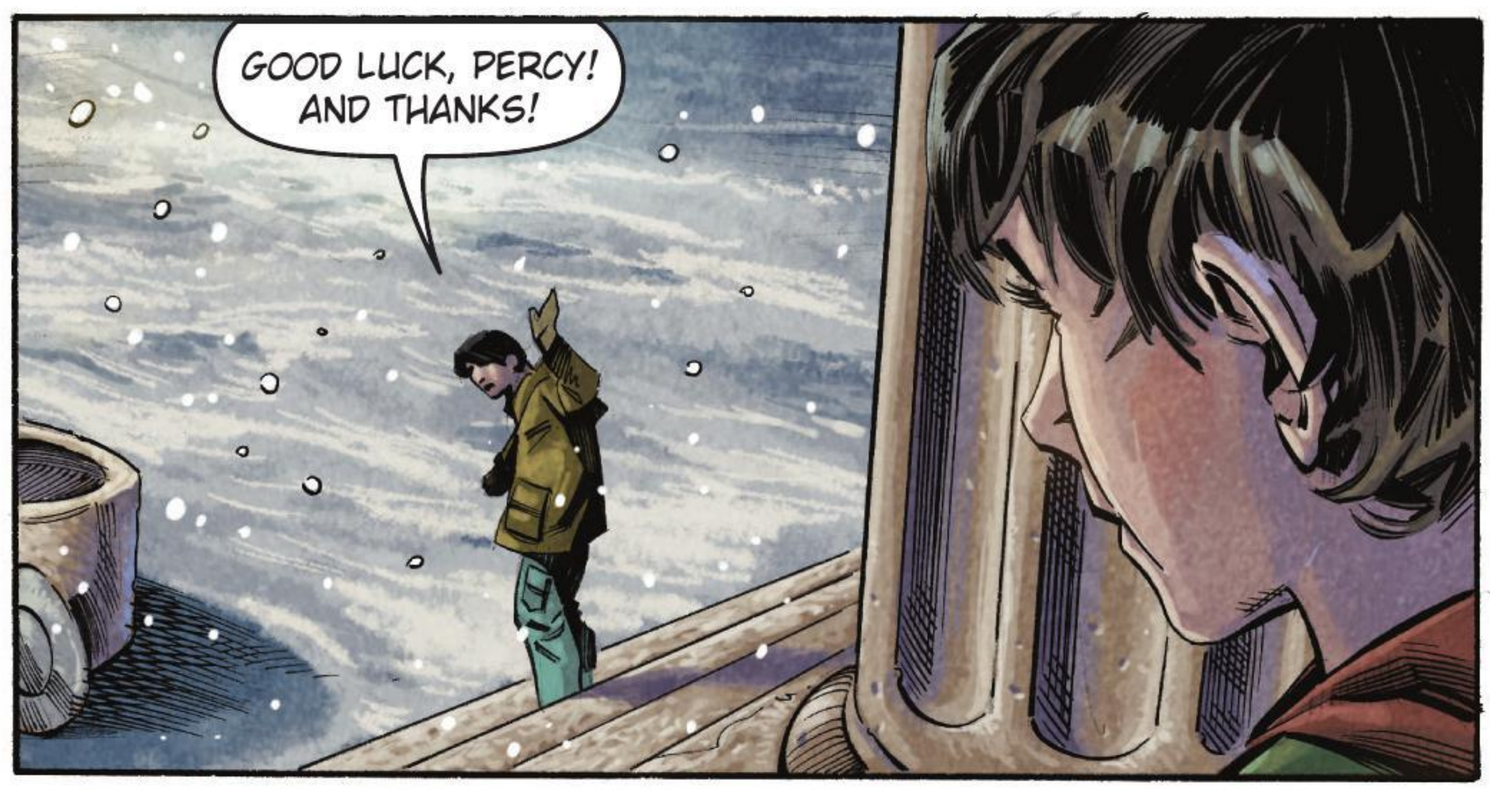
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. IF BIANCA WAS MY SISTER, I'D BE THINKING THE SAME THING. BUT YOU CAN'T GO WITH THEM. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG.
BESIDES, IF THEY CATCH YOU-- AND THEY WILL CATCH YOU-- THEY'LL JUST SEND YOU BACK HERE.
MAYBE. BUT...YOU CAN GO!

THAT HAT. IT MAKES YOU INVISIBLE, RIGHT? LIKE YOUR FRIEND, ANNABETH, WHEN SHE SURPRISED THE MANTICORE.
SO YOU CAN FOLLOW THEM, ALL INVISIBLE-LIKE. I WON'T TELL ANYONE WHERE YOU WENT. I SWEAR!

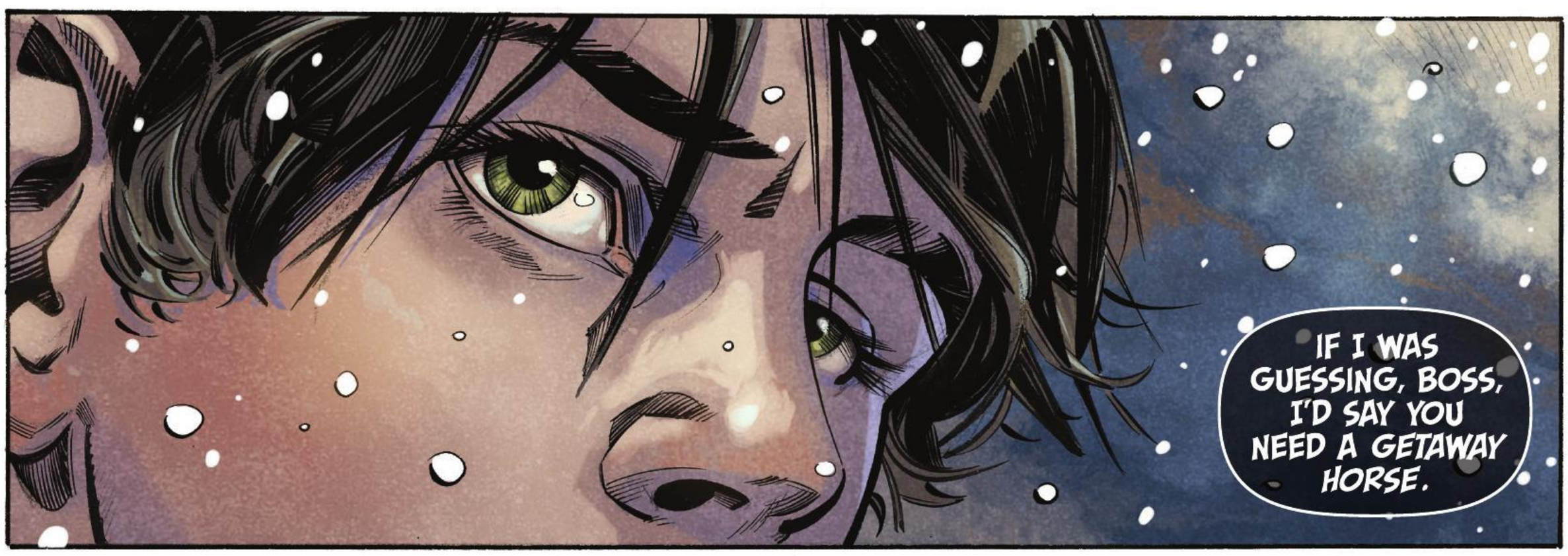
YOU'RE PLANNING TO GO ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH...I HAVE TO HELP THEM, EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT ME TO.

THEN GO! YOU CAN KEEP AN EYE ON MY SISTER, TOO.
AW, JEEZ. I CAN'T--
SHE'LL BE SAFE WITH YOU AROUND. I KNOW SHE WILL!

I'LL DO MY BEST.
NOW LISTEN, ABOUT CHIRON--
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE UP SOMETHING. I'M GOOD AT THAT.
NOW, GO ON!

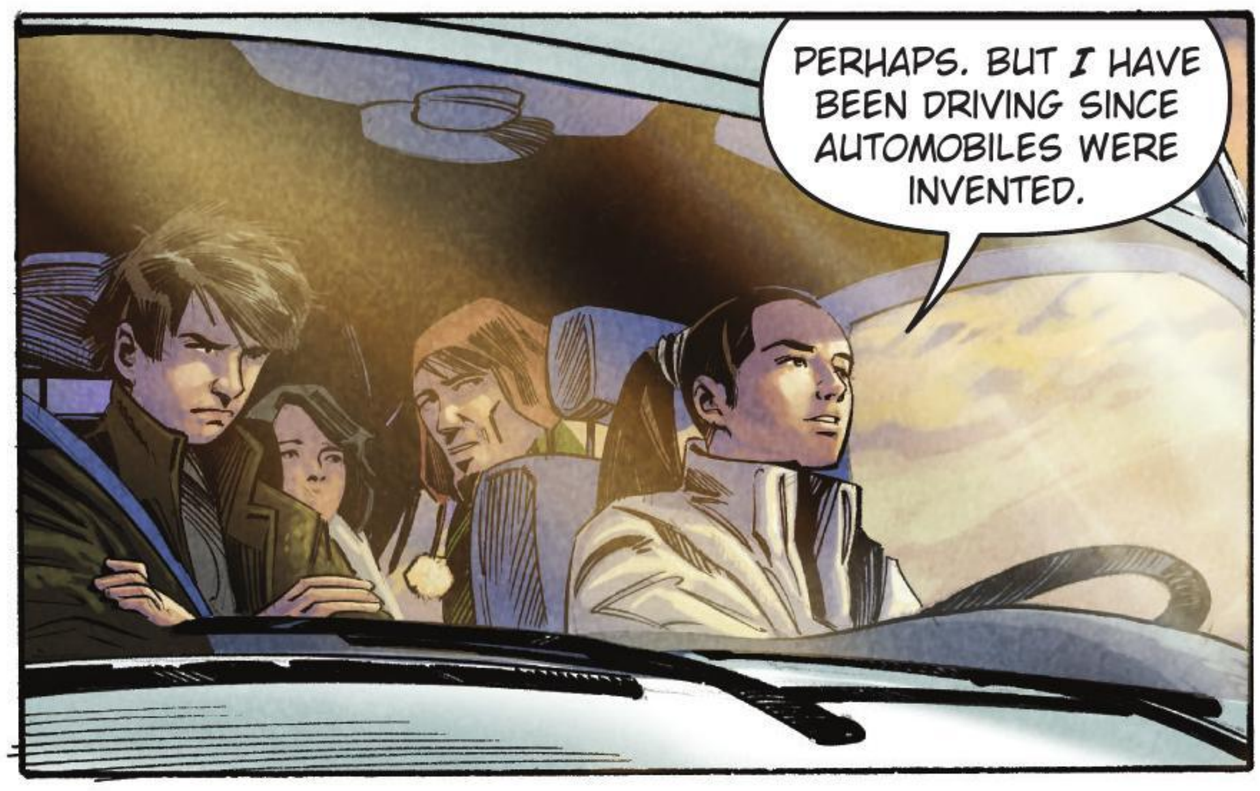

GOOD LUCK, PERCY! AND THANKS!

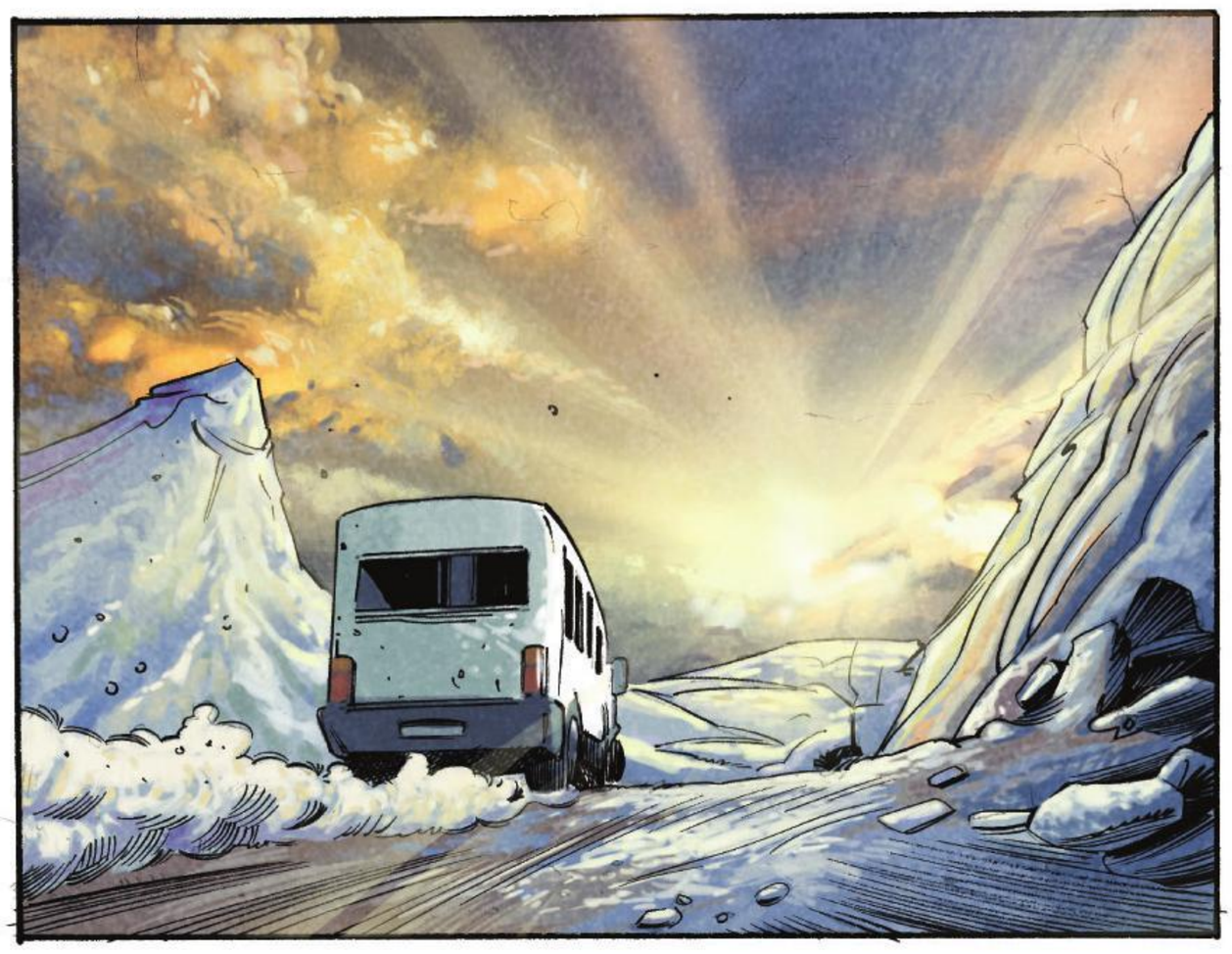
NOW WHAT?

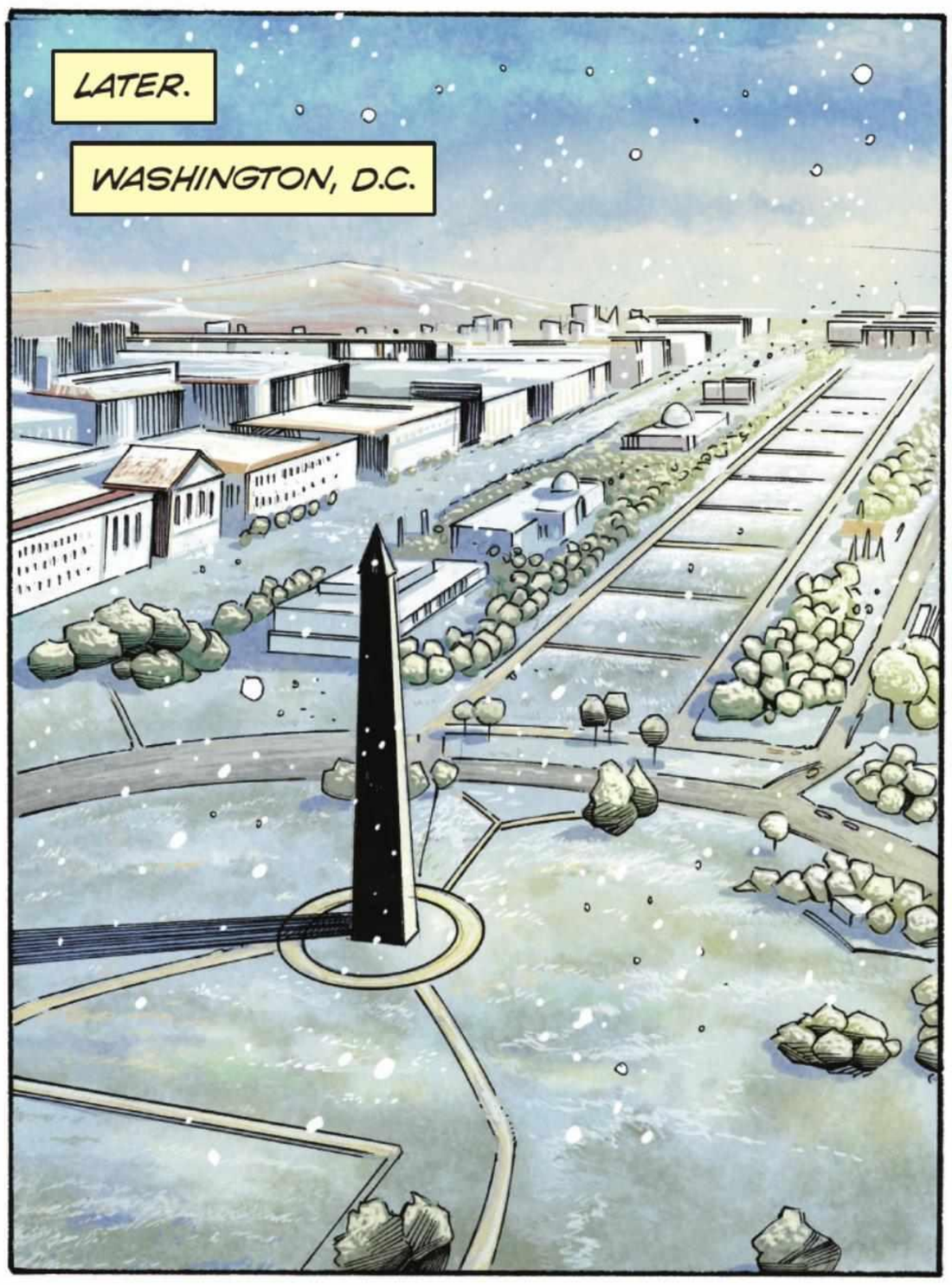

IF I WAS GUESSING, BOSS, I'D SAY YOU NEED A GETAWAY HORSE.

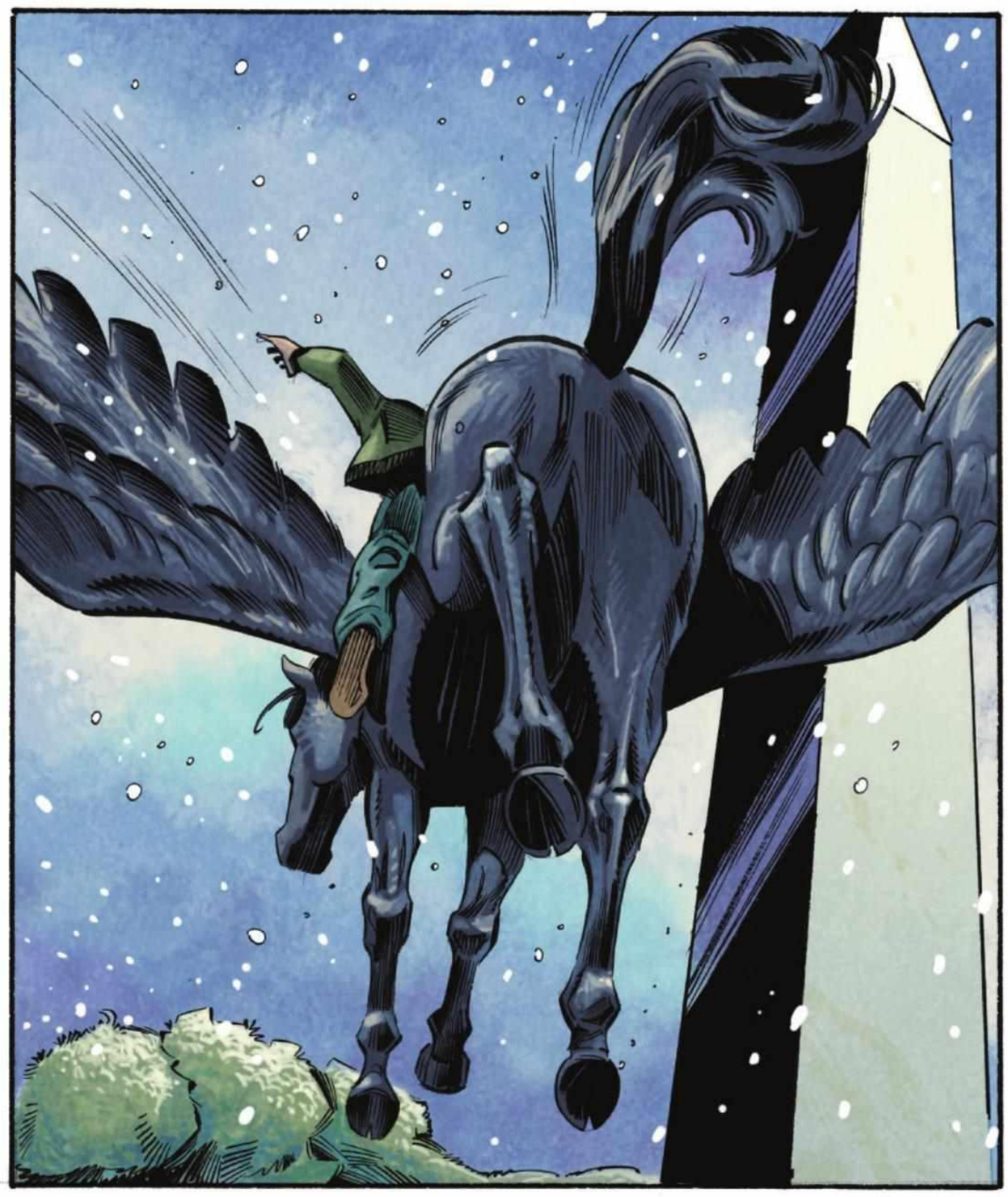
YOU INTERESTED?

I MAY NOT HAVE DONE SO HOT WITH THE SUN BUS, BUT WE'RE GOING TO GET ARRESTED WITH YOU DRIVING, ZOÈ.
I LOOK CLOSER TO SIXTEEN THAN YOU DO.


PERHAPS. BUT I HAVE BEEN DRIVING SINCE AUTOMOBILES WERE INVENTED.

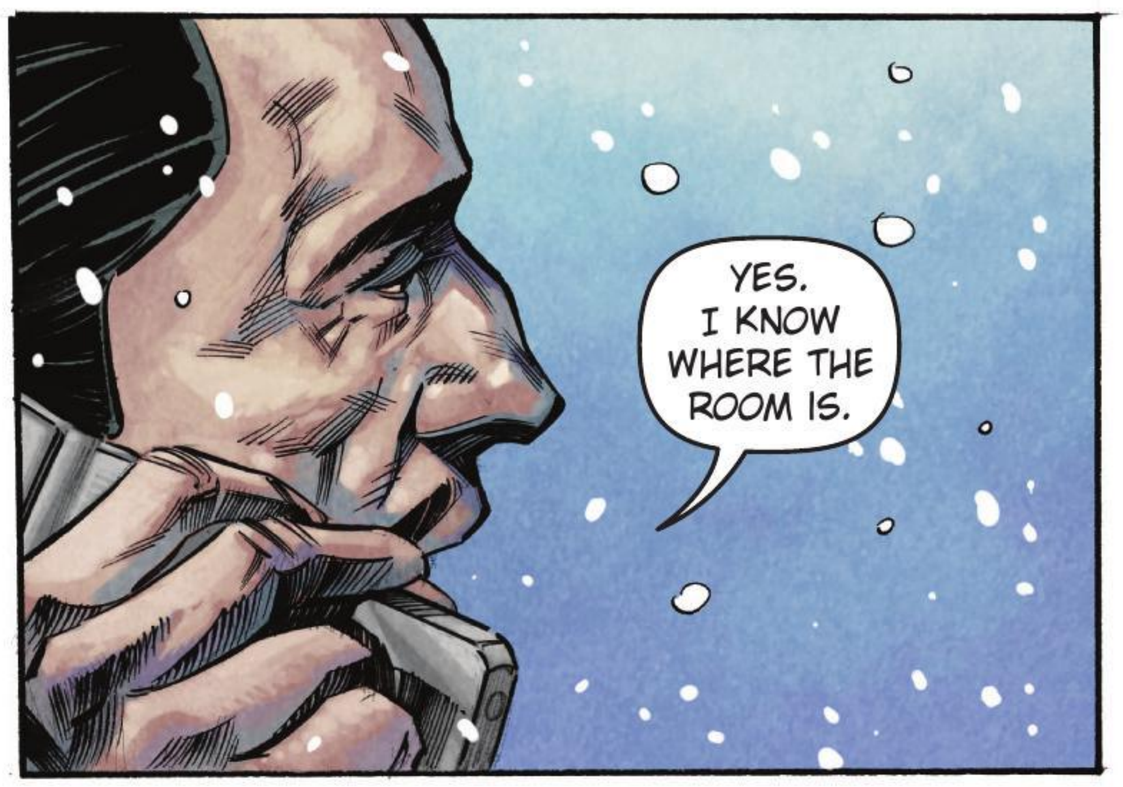



LATER.
WASHINGTON, D.C.



SORRY FOR THE LONG FLIGHT. I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D GO SO FAR WITHOUT STOPPING.
IT'S NOTHING. HUFF HUFF I CAN GO ALL DAY. HUFF
NO, YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
GO BACK TO CAMP AND GET SOME REST. I'LL BE FINE.

REST I CAN DO. BUT BE CAREFUL, BOSS. I GOT A FEELING THEY DIDN'T COME HERE TO MEET ANYTHING FRIENDLY AND HANDSOME LIKE ME.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY'RE DOING HERE. THE ORACLE SAID TO GO WEST, NOT SOUTH.
WHATEVER IT IS, I NEED TO FIND OUT.
Smithsonian Institution
National Air and Space Mus

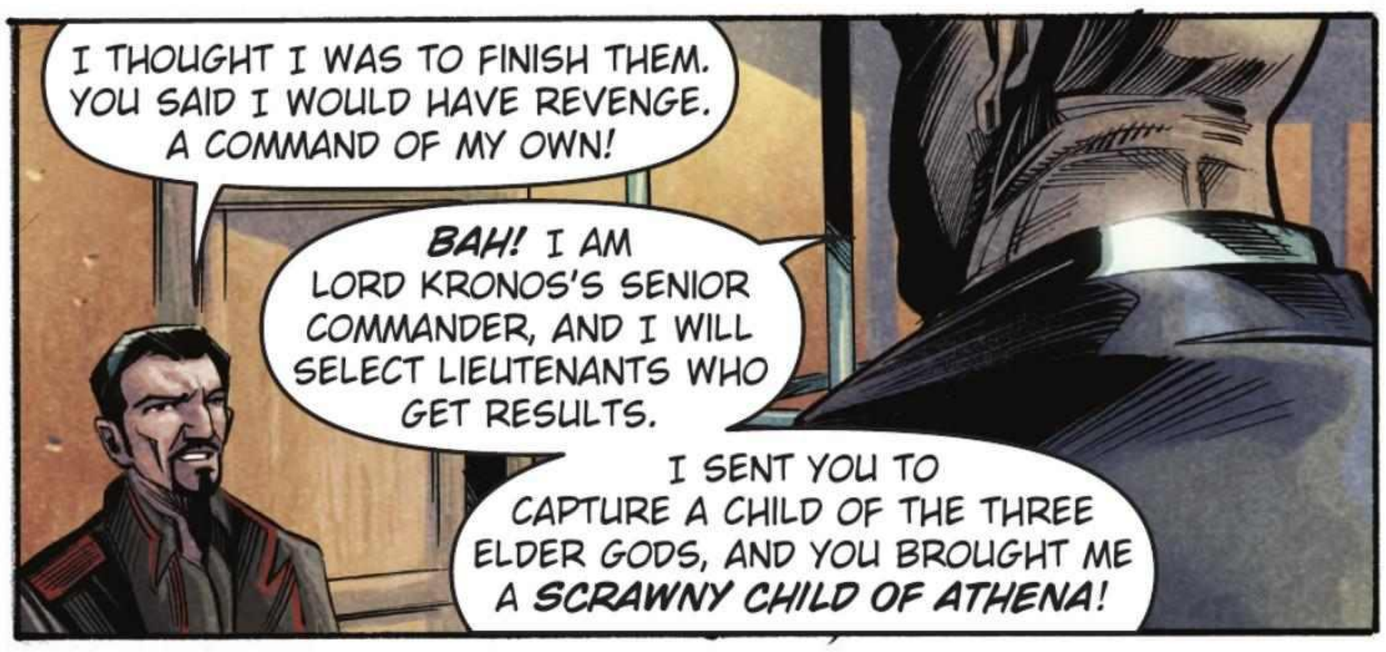

YES. I KNOW WHERE THE ROOM IS.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.
NO ADMITTANCE

REPORT, THORN.
THEY ARE AT THE AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM, GENERAL.

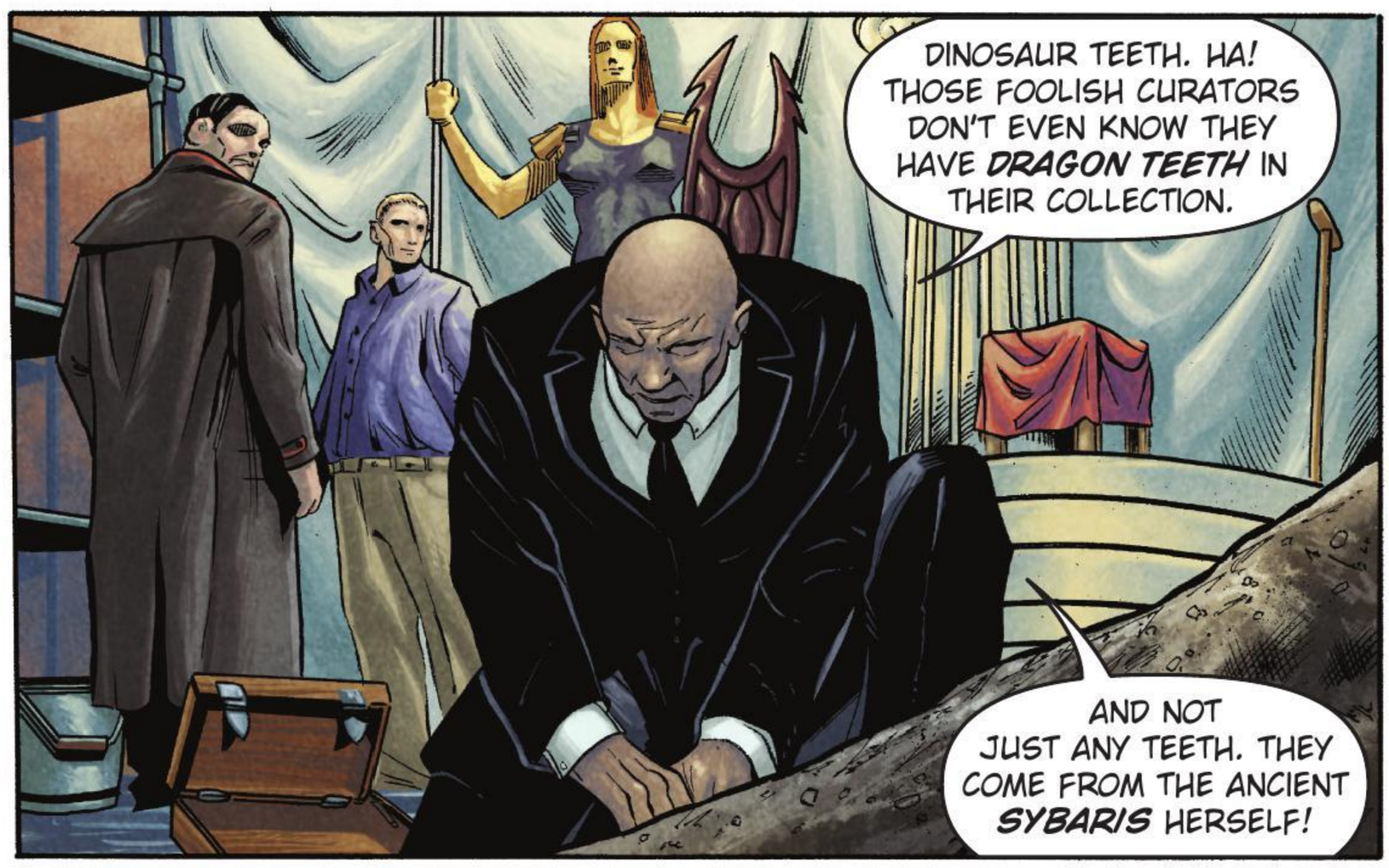
THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM: THE SATYR, ZEUS'S SPAWN, AND TWO HUNTERS. ONE OF THEM WEARS A SILVER CIRCLET.
THAT ONE I KNOW.
LET ME TAKE THEM. I'LL END THIS.

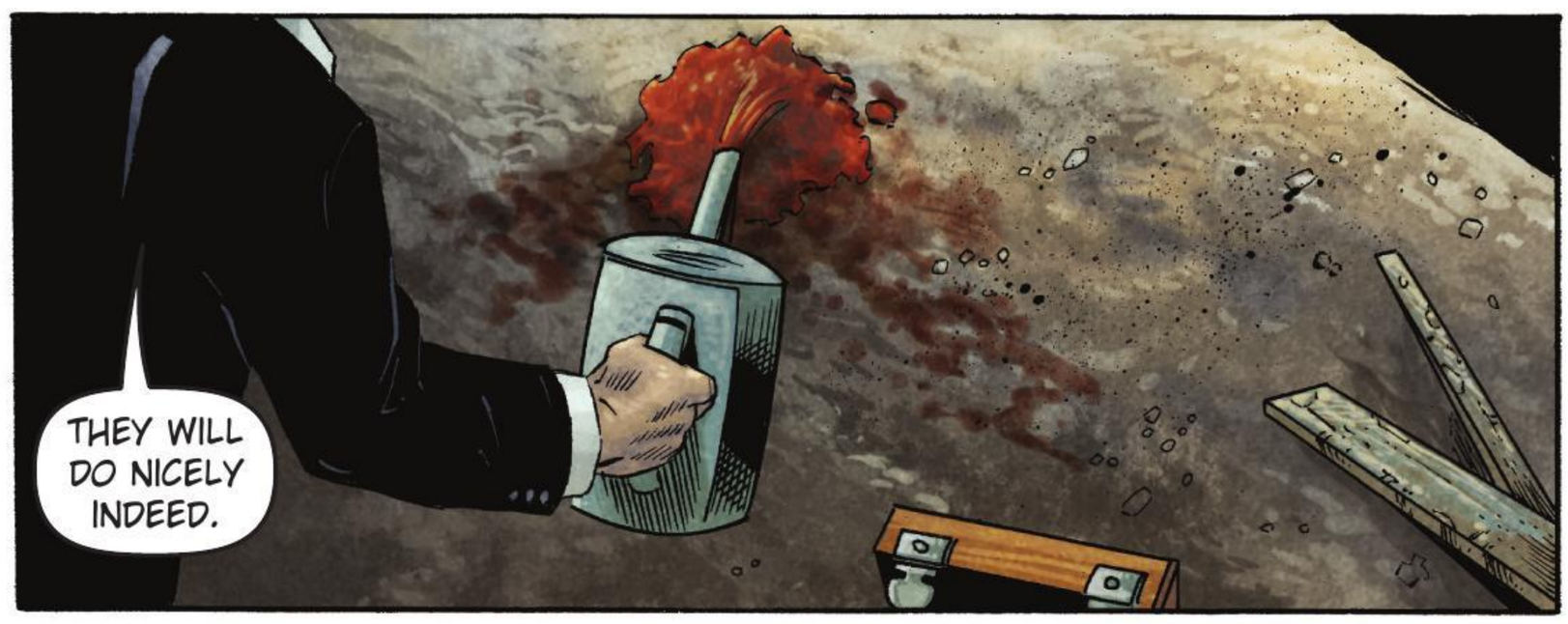
PATIENCE, LUKE. THEY'LL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL.
I'VE SENT A LITTLE *PLAYMATE* TO KEEP THEM COMPANY.


I THOUGHT I WAS TO FINISH THEM. YOU SAID I WOULD HAVE REVENGE. A COMMAND OF MY OWN!
BAH! I AM LORD KRONOS'S SENIOR COMMANDER, AND I WILL SELECT LIEUTENANTS WHO GET RESULTS.
I SENT YOU TO CAPTURE A CHILD OF THE THREE ELDER GODS, AND YOU BROUGHT ME A *SCRAWNY CHILD OF ATHENA!*

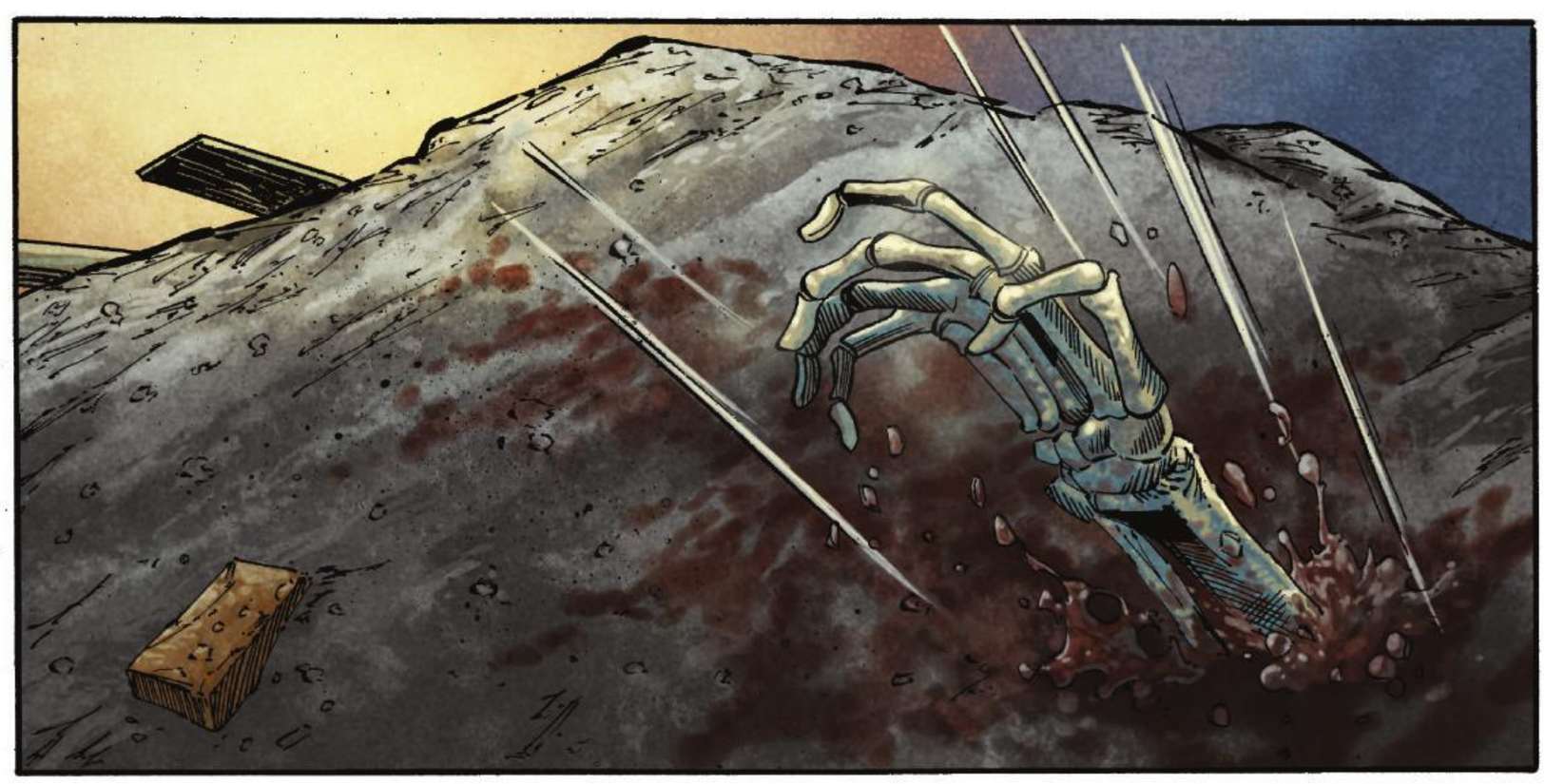
IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF LUKE THAT OUR PLAN WAS SALVAGED AT ALL.
NOW, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW WE WILL END THEIR FOOLISH QUEST.

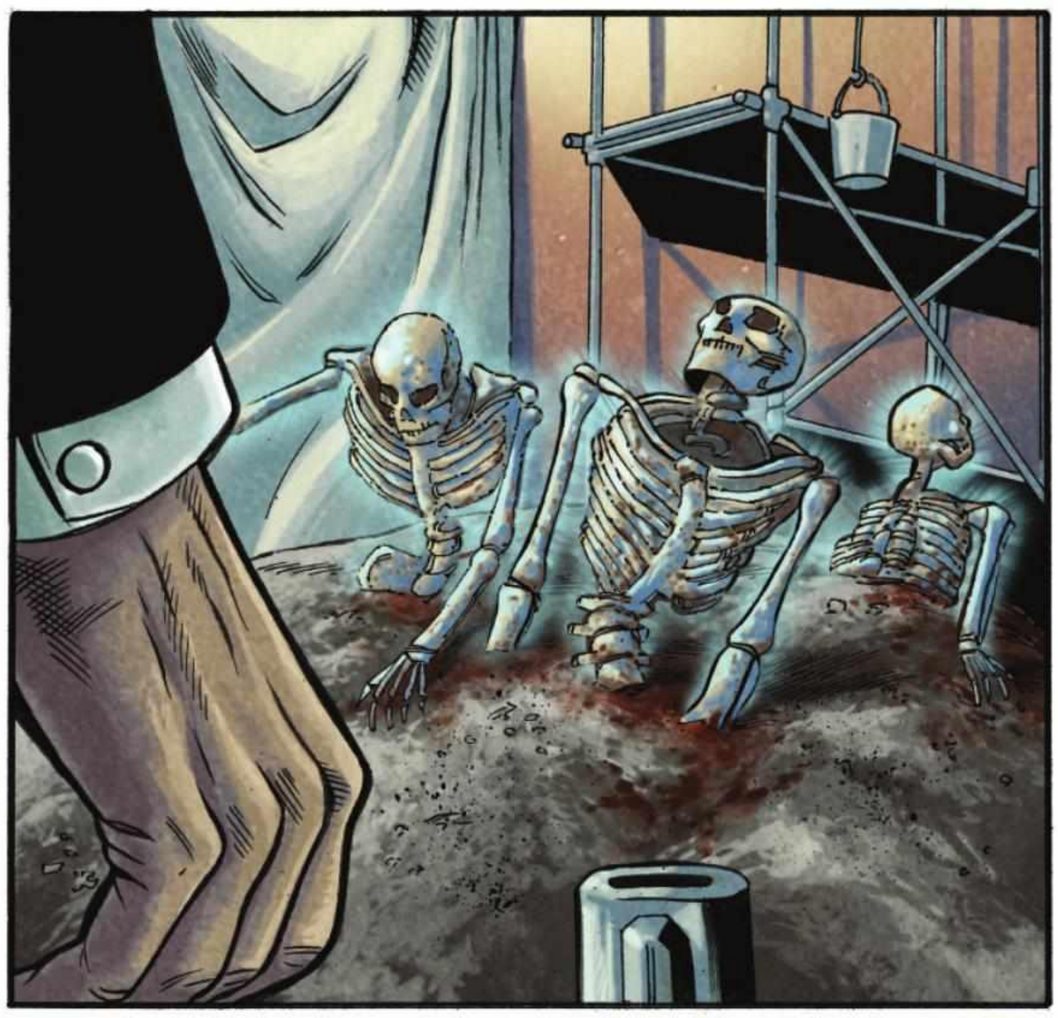
SOON, LUKE, WE WILL COMMAND SOLDIERS THAT WILL MAKE THAT ARMY ON YOUR LITTLE BOAT LOOK INSIGNIFICANT.


DINOSAUR TEETH. HA! THOSE FOOLISH CURATORS DON'T EVEN KNOW THEY HAVE ***DRAGON TEETH*** IN THEIR COLLECTION.
AND NOT JUST ANY TEETH. THEY COME FROM THE ANCIENT ***SYBARIS*** HERSELF!


THEY WILL DO NICELY INDEED.

RISE! IT IS TIME TO REPORT FOR DUTY.

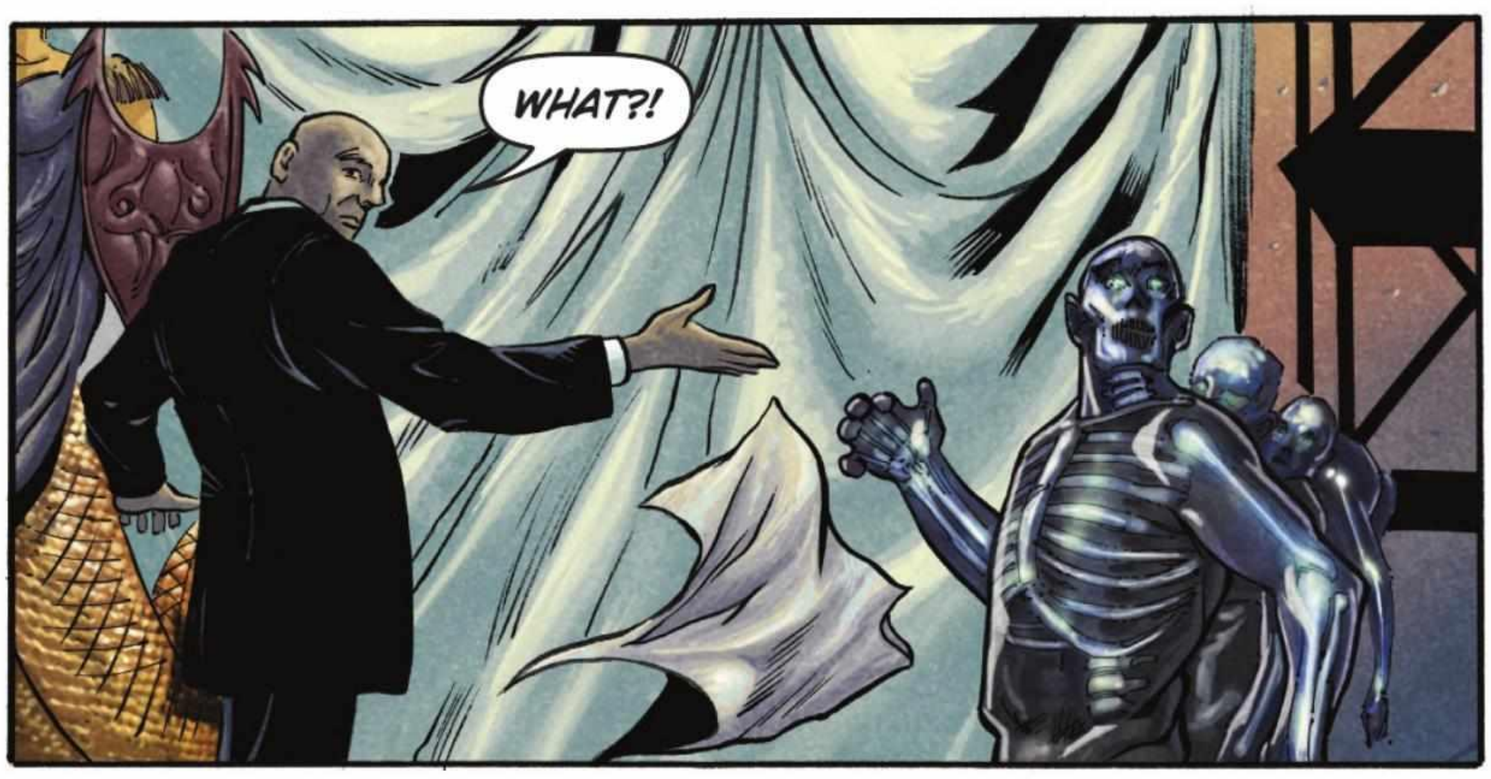




THE SCENT! BRING IT QUICKLY.

HERE IT ISSS, GENERAL.
EXCELLENT. ONCE MY WARRIORS CATCH THE SCENT, THEY WILL PURSUE ITS OWNER RELENTLESSLY.
NOTHING CAN STOP THEM-- NO WEAPONS KNOWN TO HALF-BLOODS OR HUNTERS.

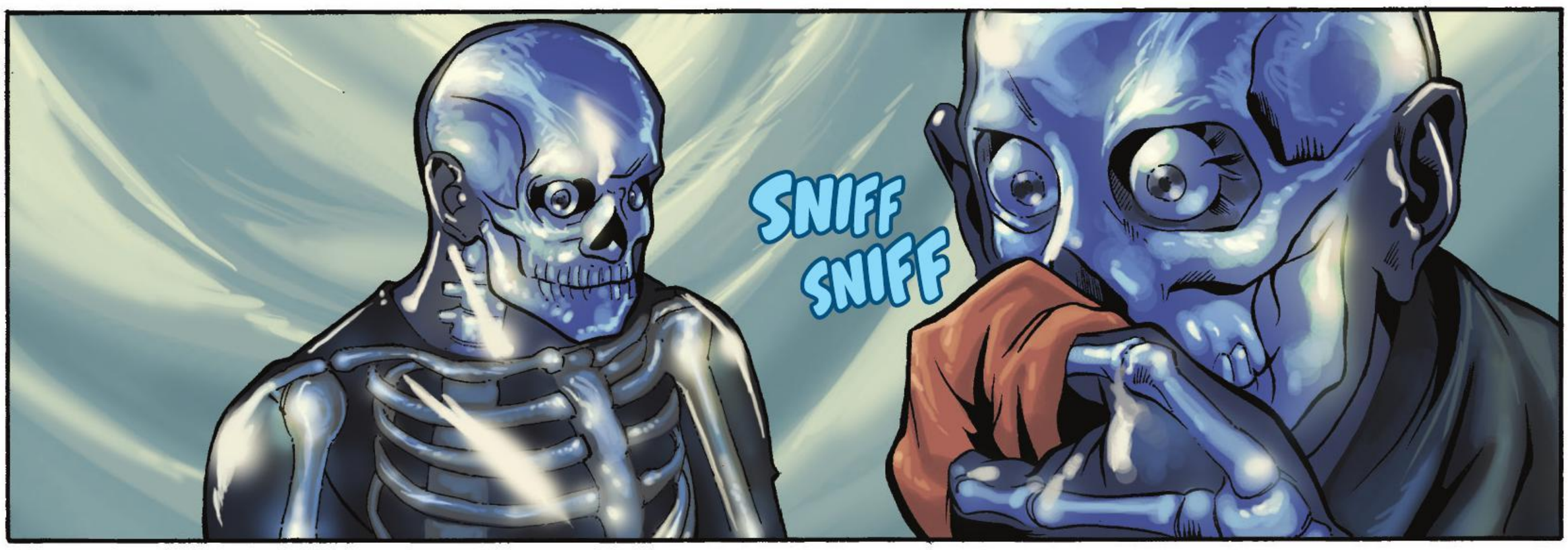
BREATHE DEEPLY, SOLDIER.
TEAR ITS OWNER, AND ALL WHO TRAVEL WITH HER, TO SHREDS.

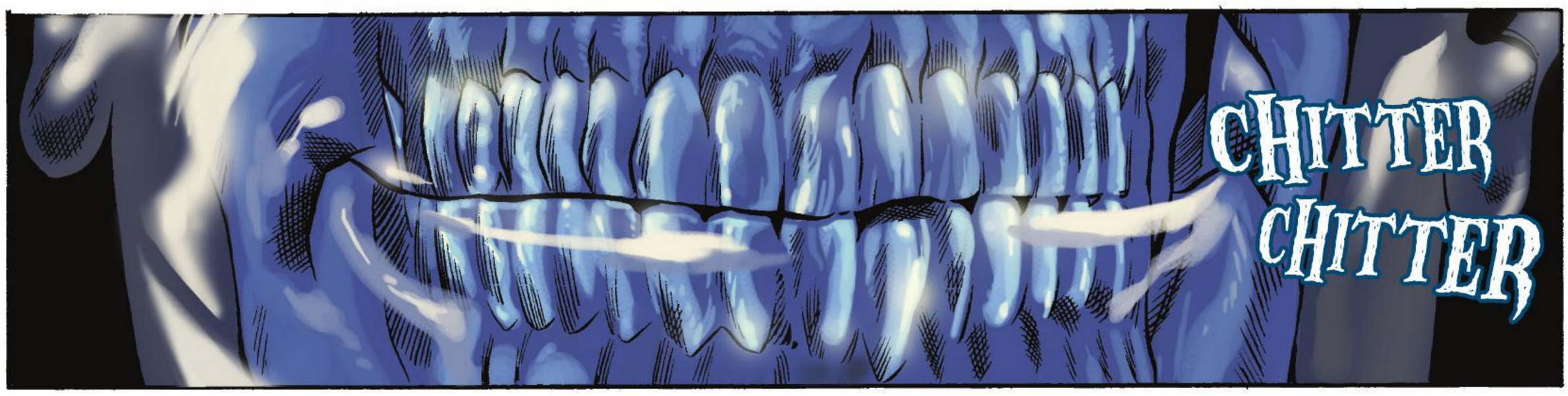

WHAT?!

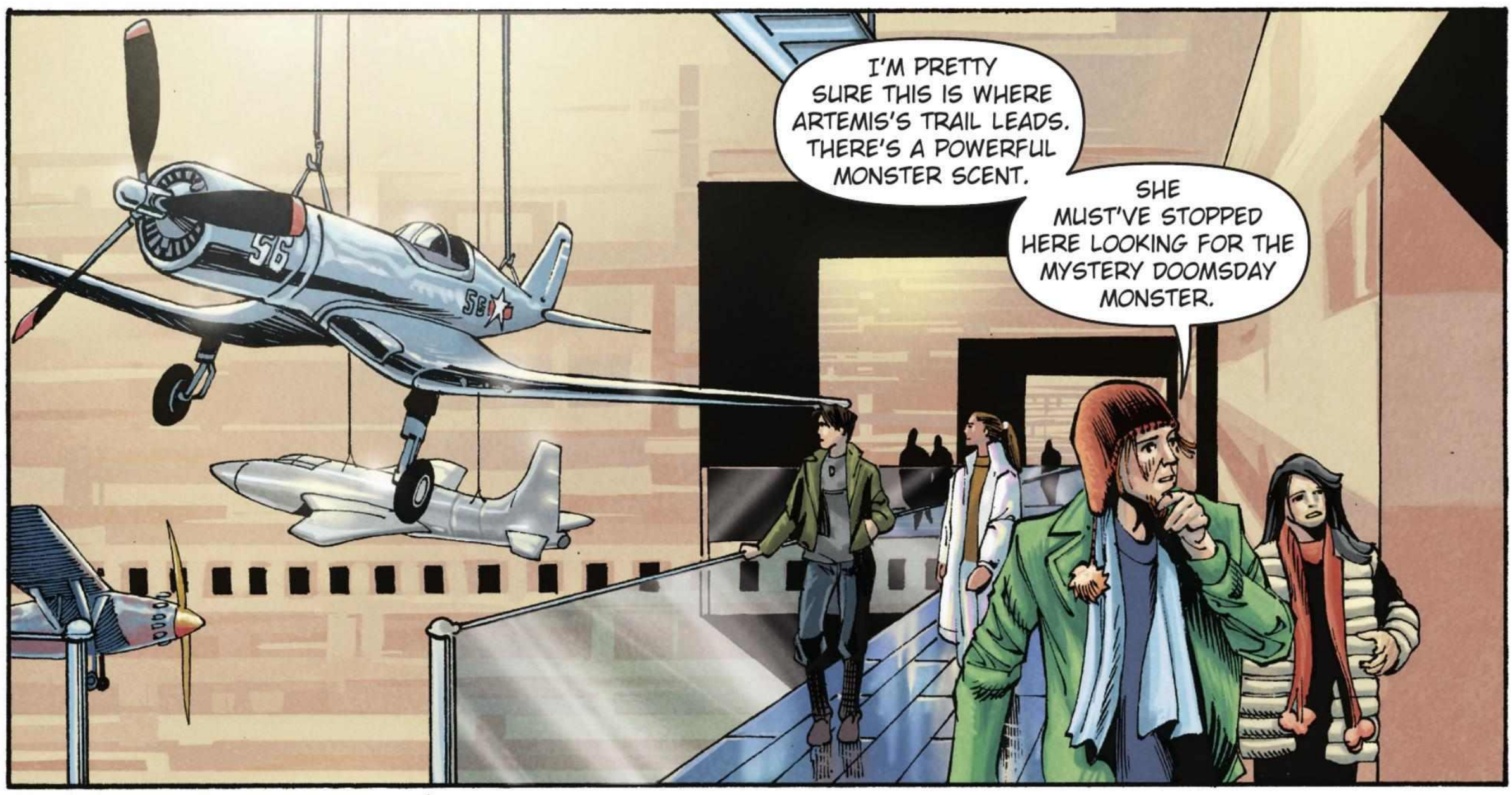
OH... UH...HEY.

PERCY!
STOP HIM!

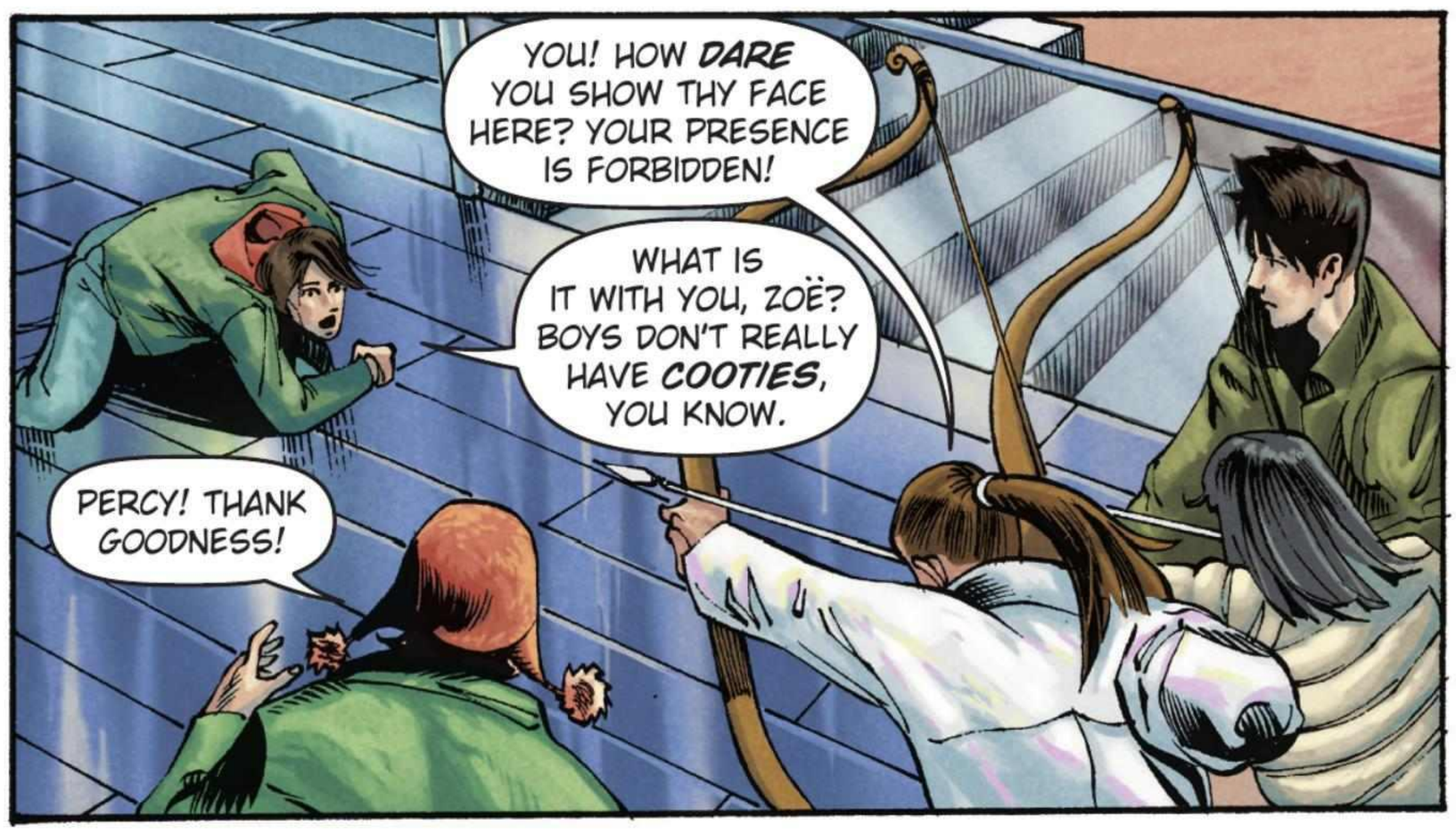
RIIIP


SNIFF
SNIFF


CHITTER
CHITTER


I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS WHERE ARTEMIS'S TRAIL LEADS. THERE'S A POWERFUL MONSTER SCENT.
SHE MUST'VE STOPPED HERE LOOKING FOR THE MYSTERY DOOMSDAY MONSTER.

HEY!


YOU! HOW DARE YOU SHOW THY FACE HERE? YOUR PRESENCE IS FORBIDDEN!
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, ZOË? BOYS DON'T REALLY HAVE COOTIES, YOU KNOW.
PERCY! THANK GOODNESS!

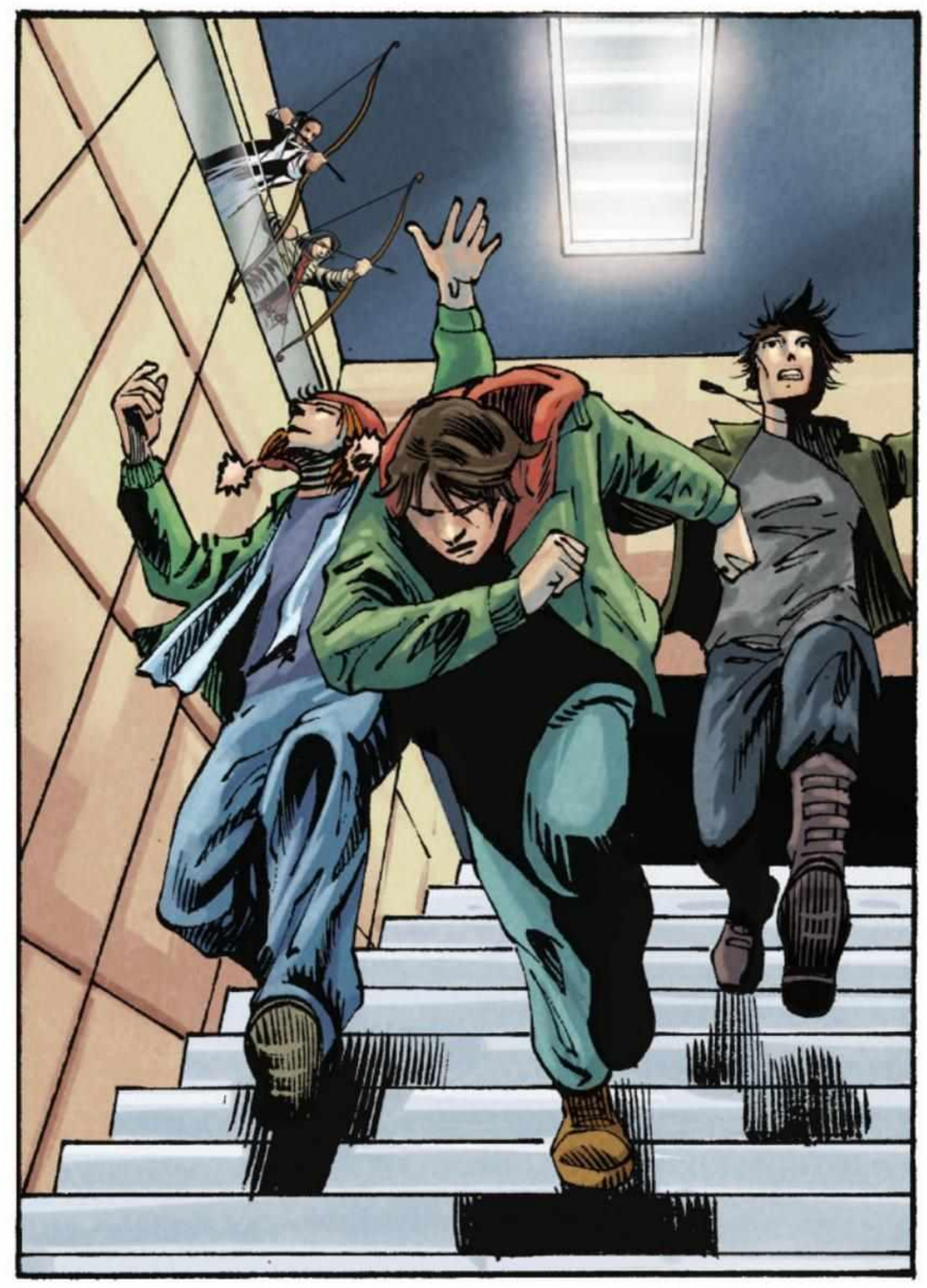
LISTEN. LUKE IS HERE. DR. THORN AND THE GENERAL, TOO.

THE GENERAL IS HERE? THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN AN IRIS MESSAGE, OR SOME OTHER ILLUSION.
IRIS MESSAGES DON'T GROW SKELETON WARRIORS FROM DRAGON TEETH.
WHAT? HOW MANY?
SIX, I THINK. AND THAT'S NOT ALL. HE SAID HE WAS SENDING A "PLAYMATE" TO DISTRACT YOU OVER HERE.

UM, GUYS...?
I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE MEANT.

ROAR

THE NEMEAN LION!
SEPARATE! WE MUST ATTACK IT FROM ALL SIDES.



TRY TO FLANK IT!
HI-YAH!
Z-ZAT

SWAT
-:UNFF:-
GRRRR
GO AWAY!
CLANK
PERCY! GET OUT OF THERE!
HEH.

ROAR
EAT THIS!
THE MOUTH! THERE'S NO ARMOR IN ITS MOUTH!
KACK
KACK
HACK
THUNK

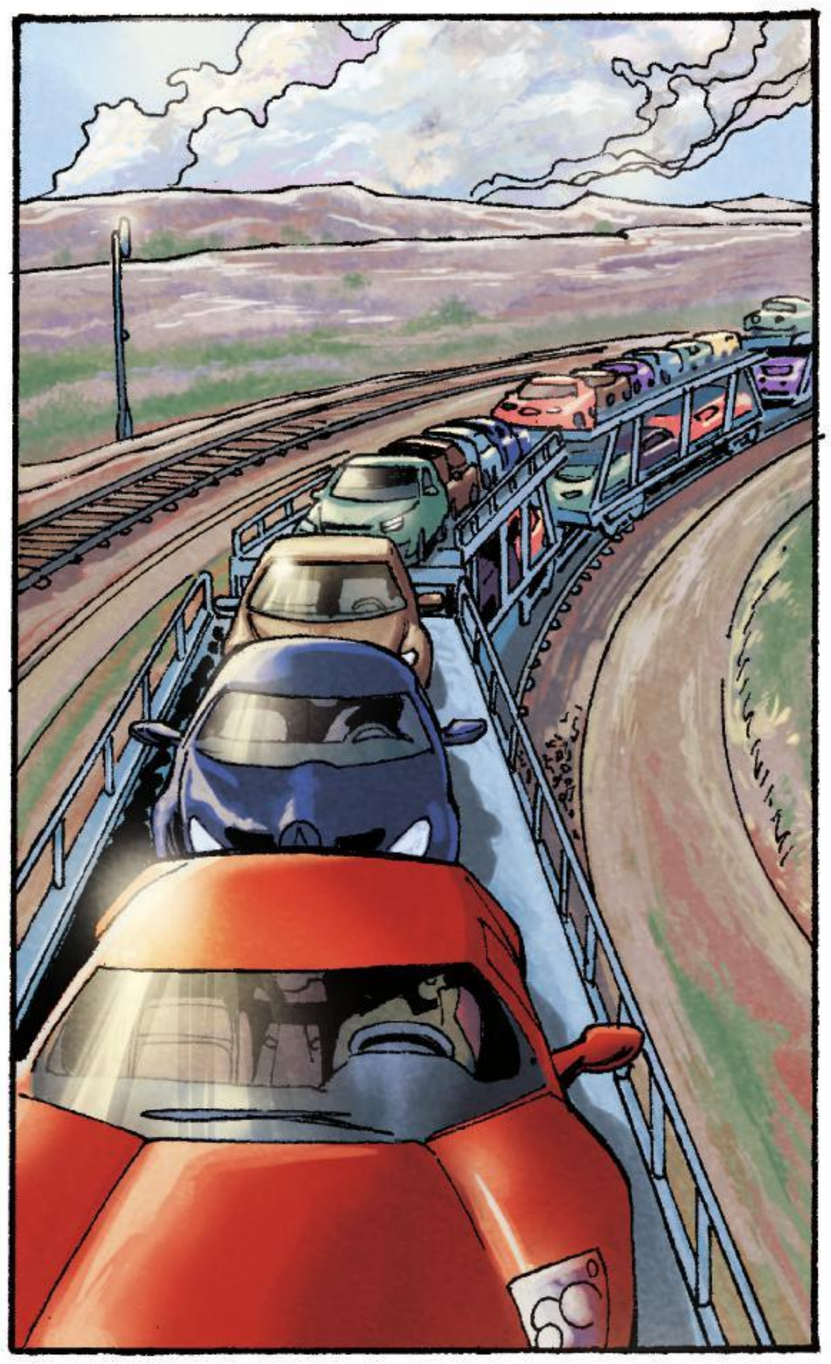
WHUMP

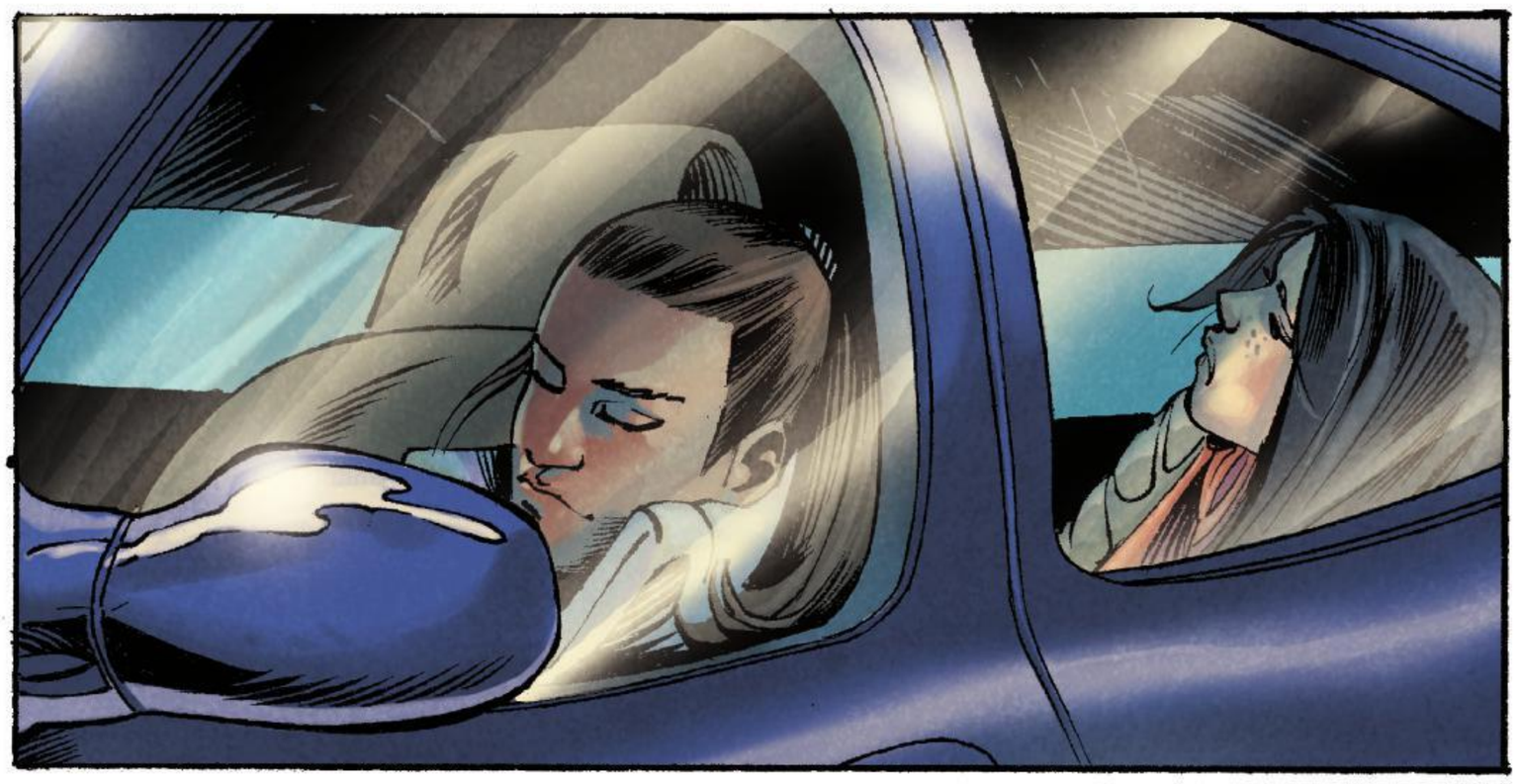
THAT WAS AN...INTERESTING STRATEGY.
HEY, IT WORKED.

TAKE THE BEAST'S PELT. IT IS RIGHTLY THINE.
NOT MY USUAL FASHION.
UH-OH.

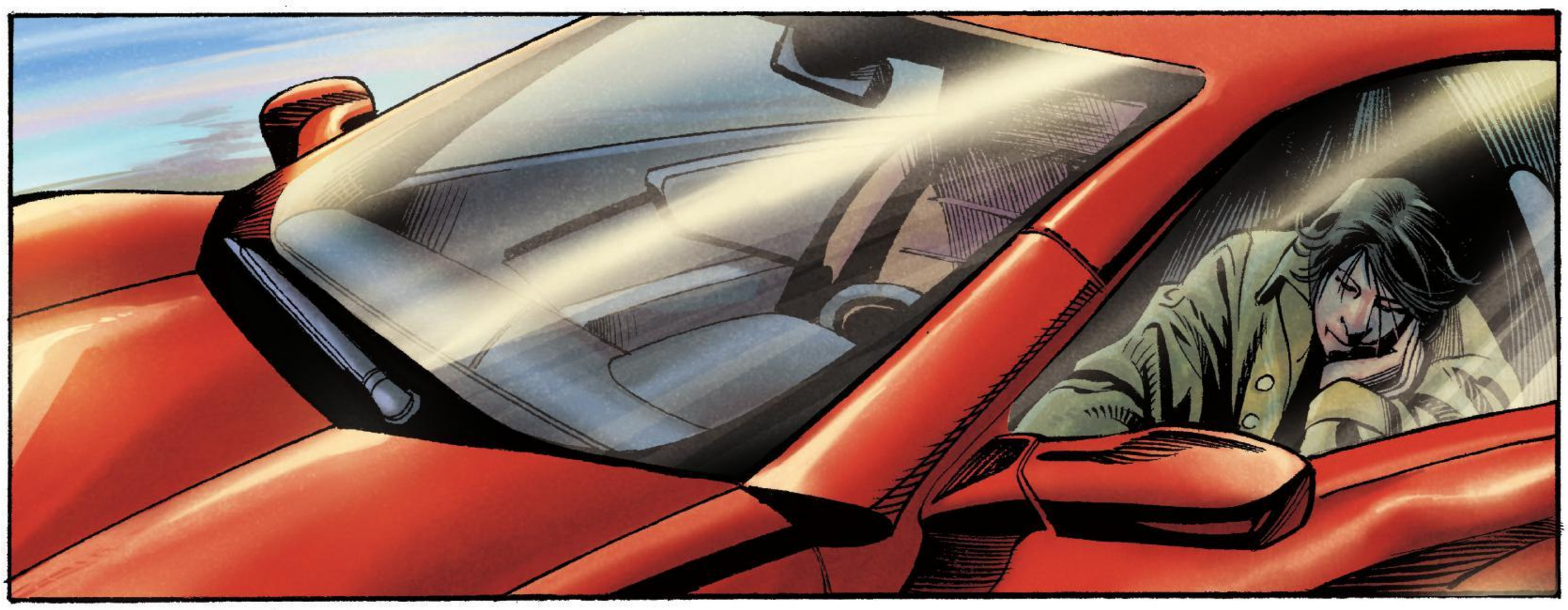
MORE TROUBLE COMING.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE CAN GET BACK TO THE VAN WITHOUT THEM SEEING. WE NEED TO FIND ANOTHER WAY WEST.
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD. IT'S ME THEY'RE HUNTING.
NO. WE GO TOGETHER. I DO NOT LIKE IT, BUT YOU ARE PART OF THIS QUEST NOW. YOU ARE THE FIFTH MEMBER--

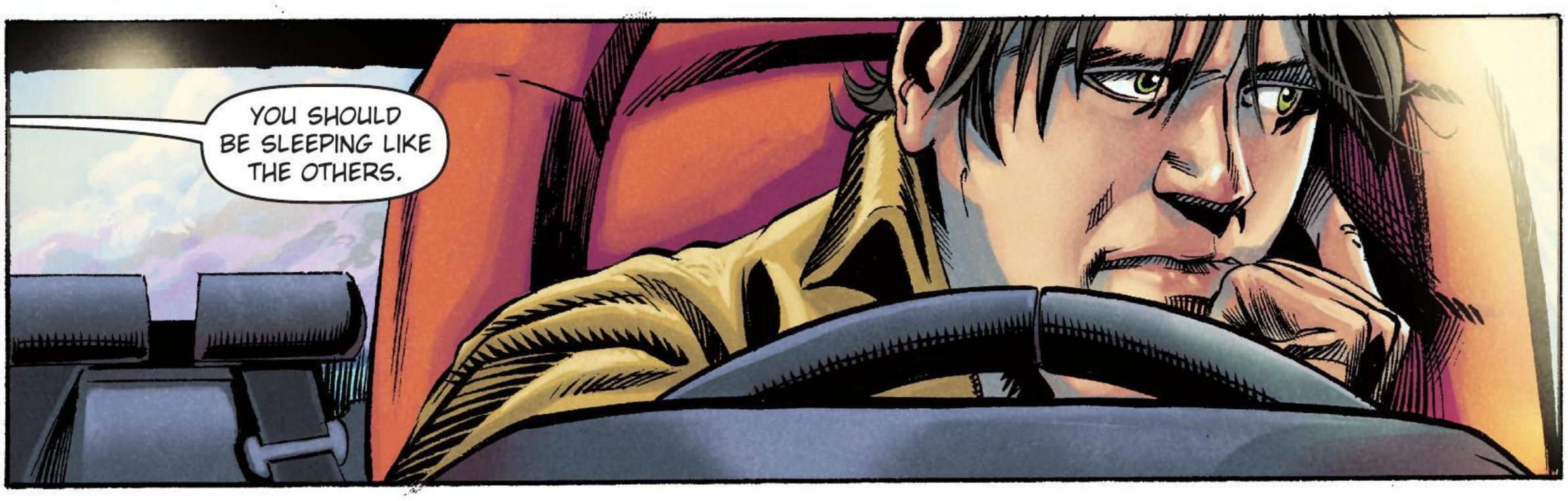
"--AND WE ARE NOT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND."





-snort-
-zzzzz-



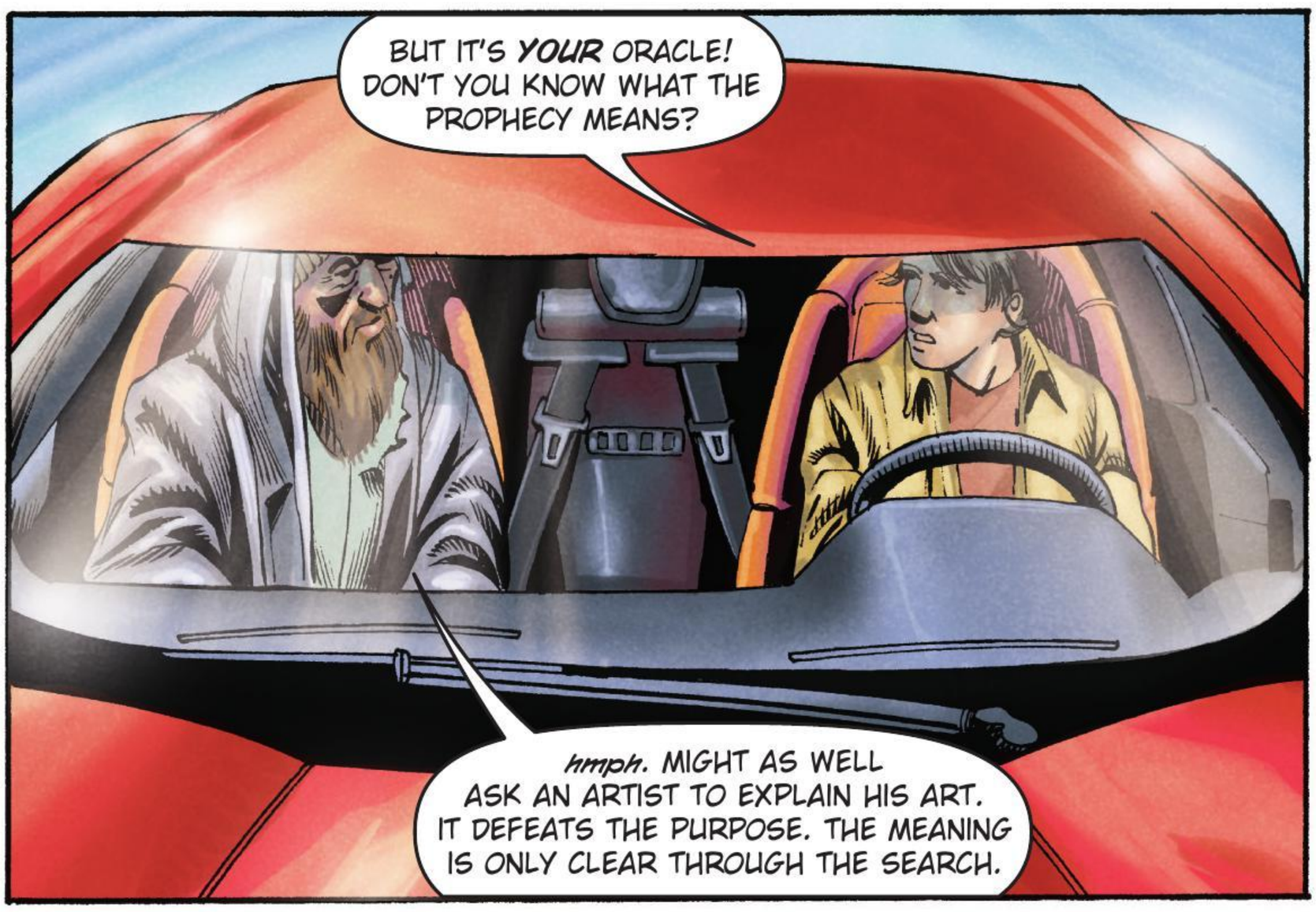

YOU SHOULD BE SLEEPING LIKE THE OTHERS.

CAN'T DREAM IF YOU DON'T SLEEP.
DREAMS LIKE A PODCAST,
DOWNLOADING TRUTH TO MY EARS.
THEY TELL ME COOL STUFF.

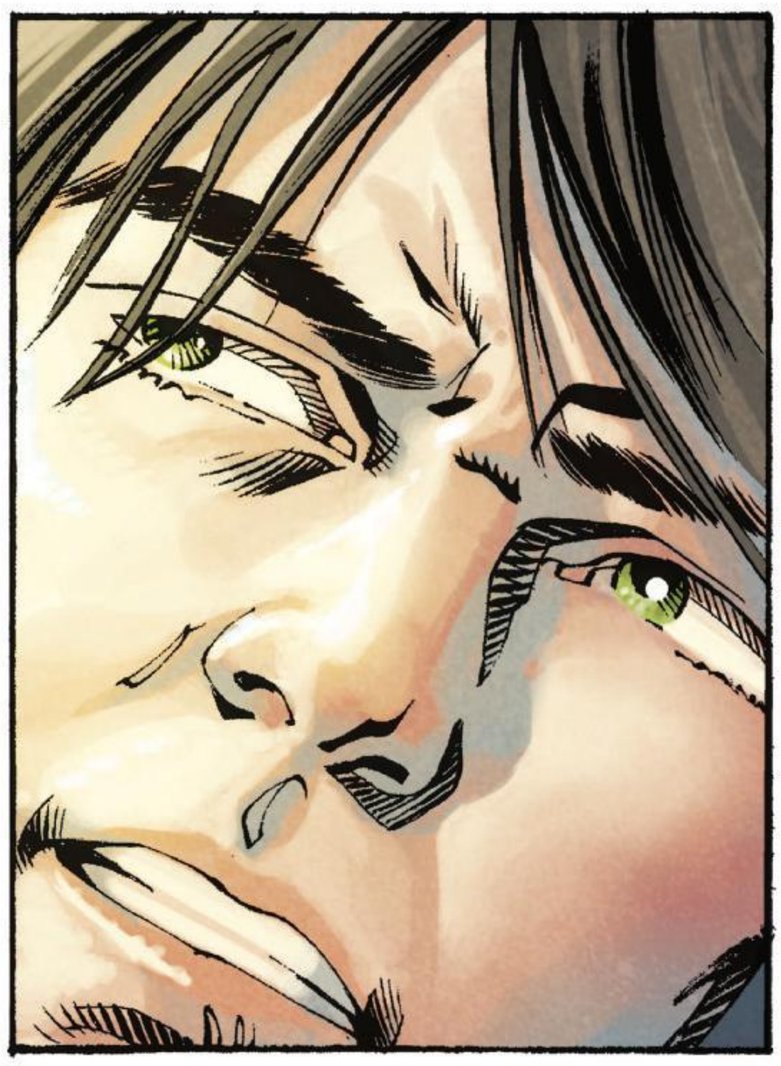
APOLLO?
shhh. I'M INCOGNITO.
ZEUS INSISTS ON CERTAIN RULES. HANDS OFF, WHEN THERE'S A HUMAN QUEST. BUT NOBODY MESSES WITH MY BABY SIS. NOBODY.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO HELP US, THEN? WHERE IS ARTEMIS? AND ANNABETH?
I KNOW A LOT, AND I SEE A LOT, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT.
THEY'RE... CLOUDED FROM ME. I DON'T LIKE IT.
WHAT ABOUT THE MONSTER? DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

NO. BUT THERE IS ONE WHO MIGHT. GO TO THE WATERFRONT IN SAN FRANCISCO AND FIND NEREUS, THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA.
HE KNOWS THINGS THAT ARE HIDDEN EVEN FROM MY ORACLE.

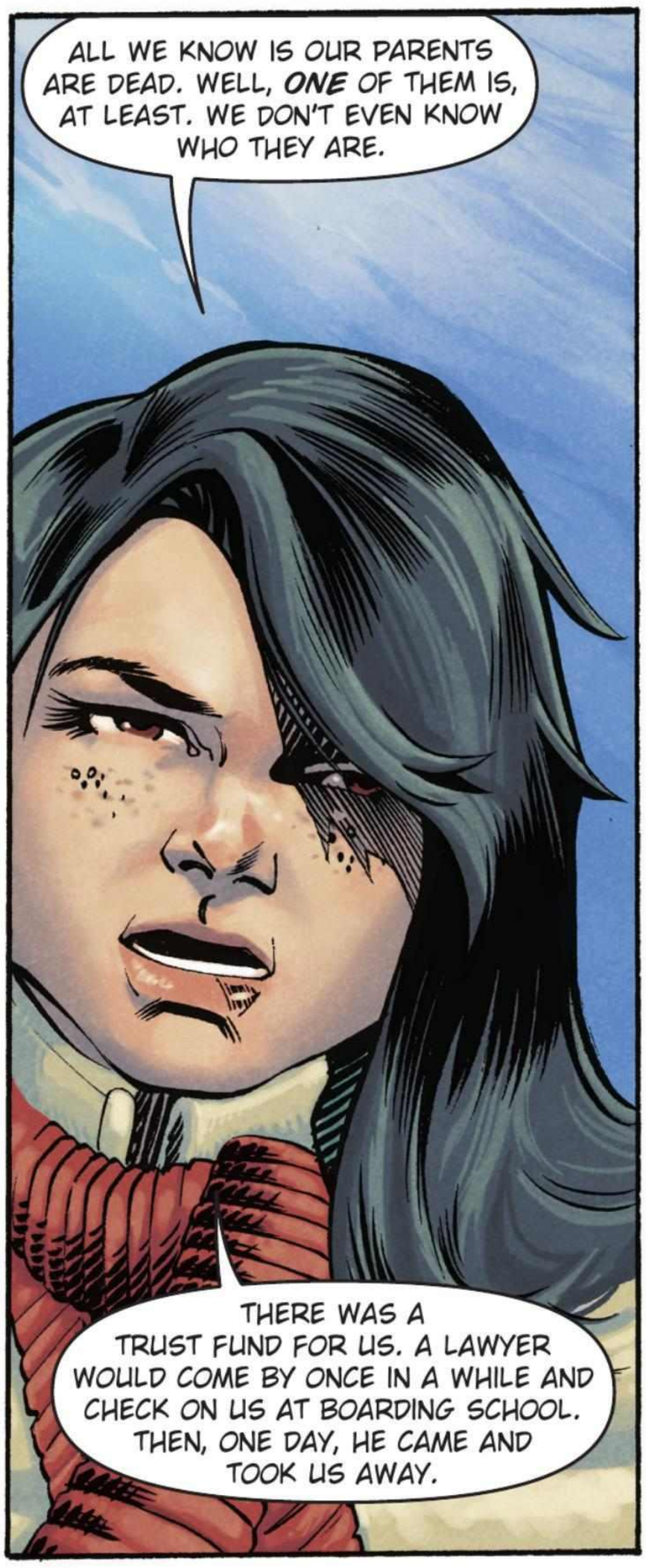

BUT IT'S YOUR ORACLE! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROPHECY MEANS?
hmph. MIGHT AS WELL ASK AN ARTIST TO EXPLAIN HIS ART. IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE. THE MEANING IS ONLY CLEAR THROUGH THE SEARCH.

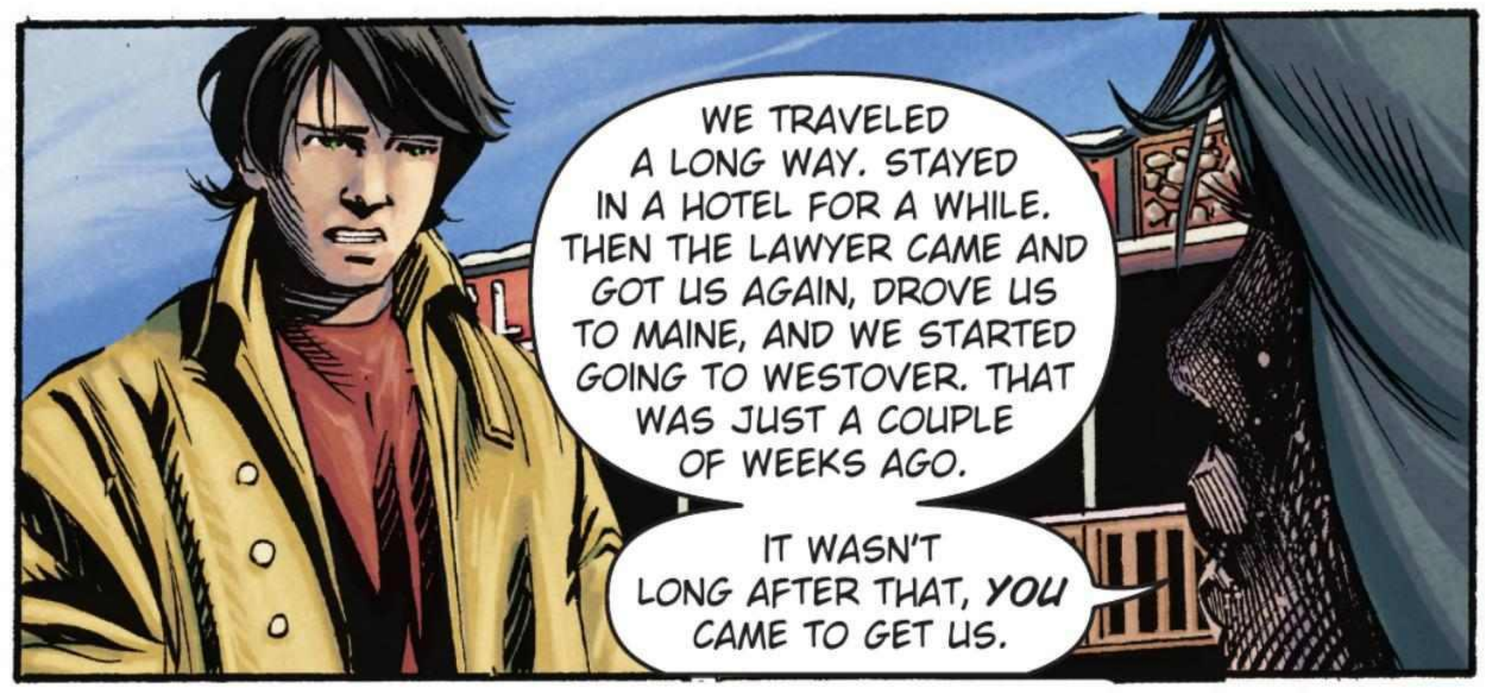
AH, LOOK AT THE TIME. GOTTA RUN.
TAKE CARE, KID. I DOUBT I'LL BE ABLE TO RISK HELPING YOU AGAIN.



"IT'S A GOOD THING THIS QUEST HAS US HEADING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE SUN."

WELCOME TO
Cloudcroft
1899
NEW MEXICO
POPULATION 892
WESTERN BAR
SO...
HOW DO YOU LIKE BEING A HUNTER?
IT'S DEFINITELY COOL. I FEEL CALMER. EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN. I GUESS THAT'S THE IMMORTALITY.
NICO DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MY DECISION, THOUGH.
YOU KNOW, IF I HADN'T MET YOU, I NEVER WOULD HAVE FELT OKAY LEAVING HIM. I FIGURED IF THERE WERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AT CAMP, HE'D BE FINE.
WHAT'S THE STORY WITH YOU TWO, ANYWAY? YOU NEVER LIVED WITH YOUR PARENTS? I MEAN...YOUR MORTAL PARENT?


ALL WE KNOW IS OUR PARENTS ARE DEAD. WELL, ONE OF THEM IS, AT LEAST. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THEY ARE.
THERE WAS A TRUST FUND FOR US. A LAWYER WOULD COME BY ONCE IN A WHILE AND CHECK ON US AT BOARDING SCHOOL. THEN, ONE DAY, HE CAME AND TOOK US AWAY.


WE TRAVELED A LONG WAY. STAYED IN A HOTEL FOR A WHILE. THEN THE LAWYER CAME AND GOT US AGAIN, DROVE US TO MAINE, AND WE STARTED GOING TO WESTOVER. THAT WAS JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.
IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT, YOU CAME TO GET US.

AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN JUST THE TWO OF YOU? BESIDES THE LAWYER, I MEAN.
YEAH. I LOVE NICO, BUT THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO JOIN THE HUNTERS.

I WANTED MY OWN LIFE AND FRIENDS. TO FIND OUT WHAT IT'D BE LIKE TO NOT BE A BIG SISTER TWENTY-FOUR SEVEN.

HAS THALIA ARRANGED OUR TRAVEL?
SHE'S NOT BACK YET.
WELL, DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP. THE CLERK SAYS THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS TOWN, UNLESS YOU HAVE A CAR.

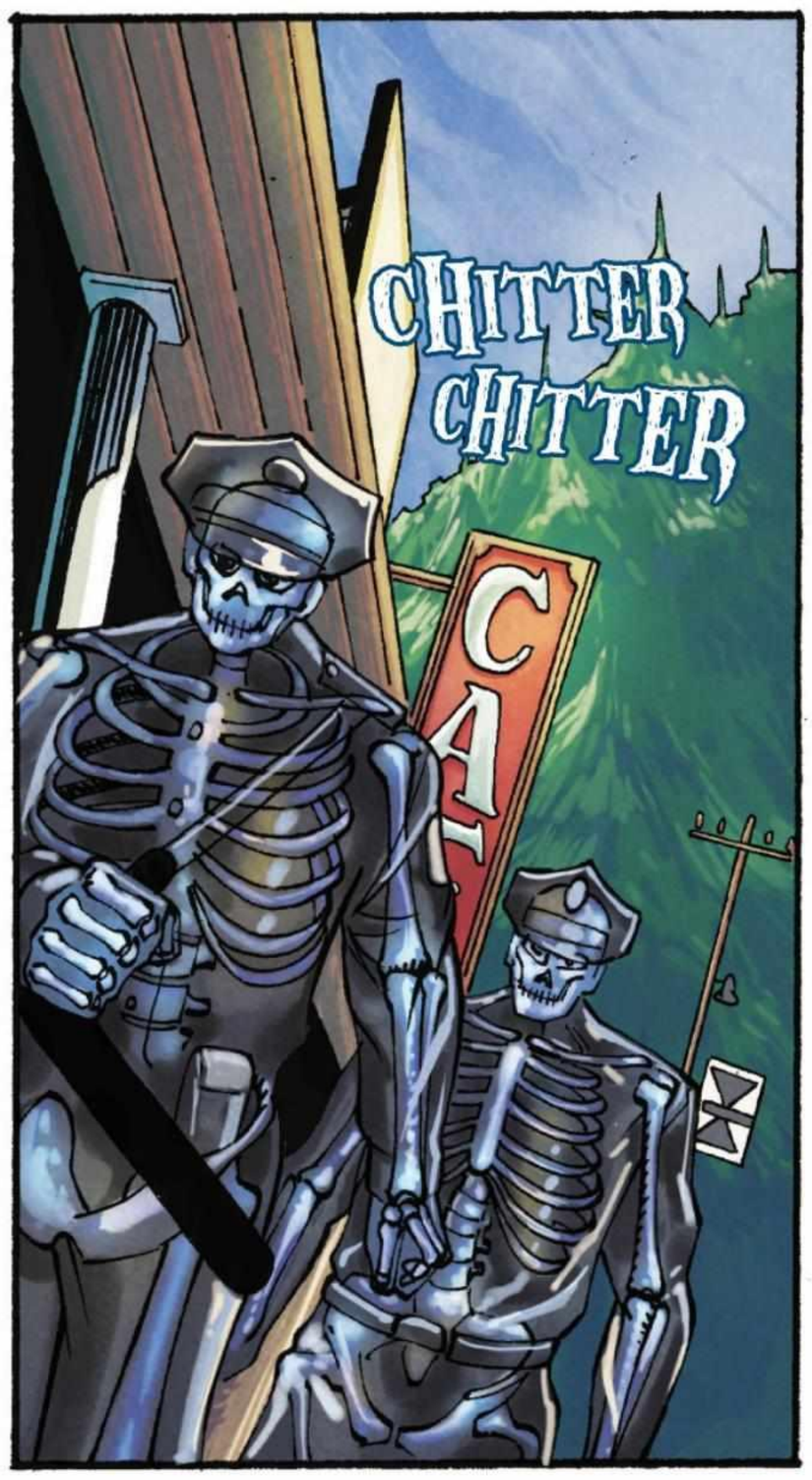
...

THE W-W-WILD...

GROVER! TALK TO ME, PAL!

HEY! I JUST--
WHAT'S WRONG WITH GROVER?
I DON'T KNOW. HE JUST KEELED OVER.
...UUUUNNNHH...

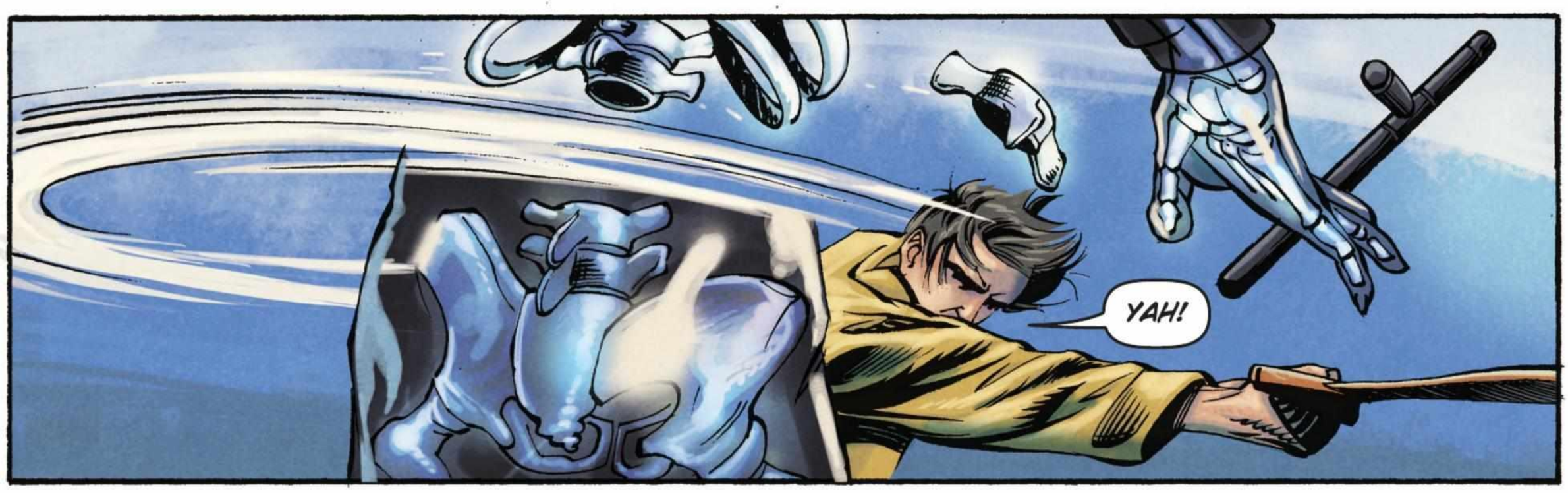
YOU'D BETTER GET HIM UP. WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

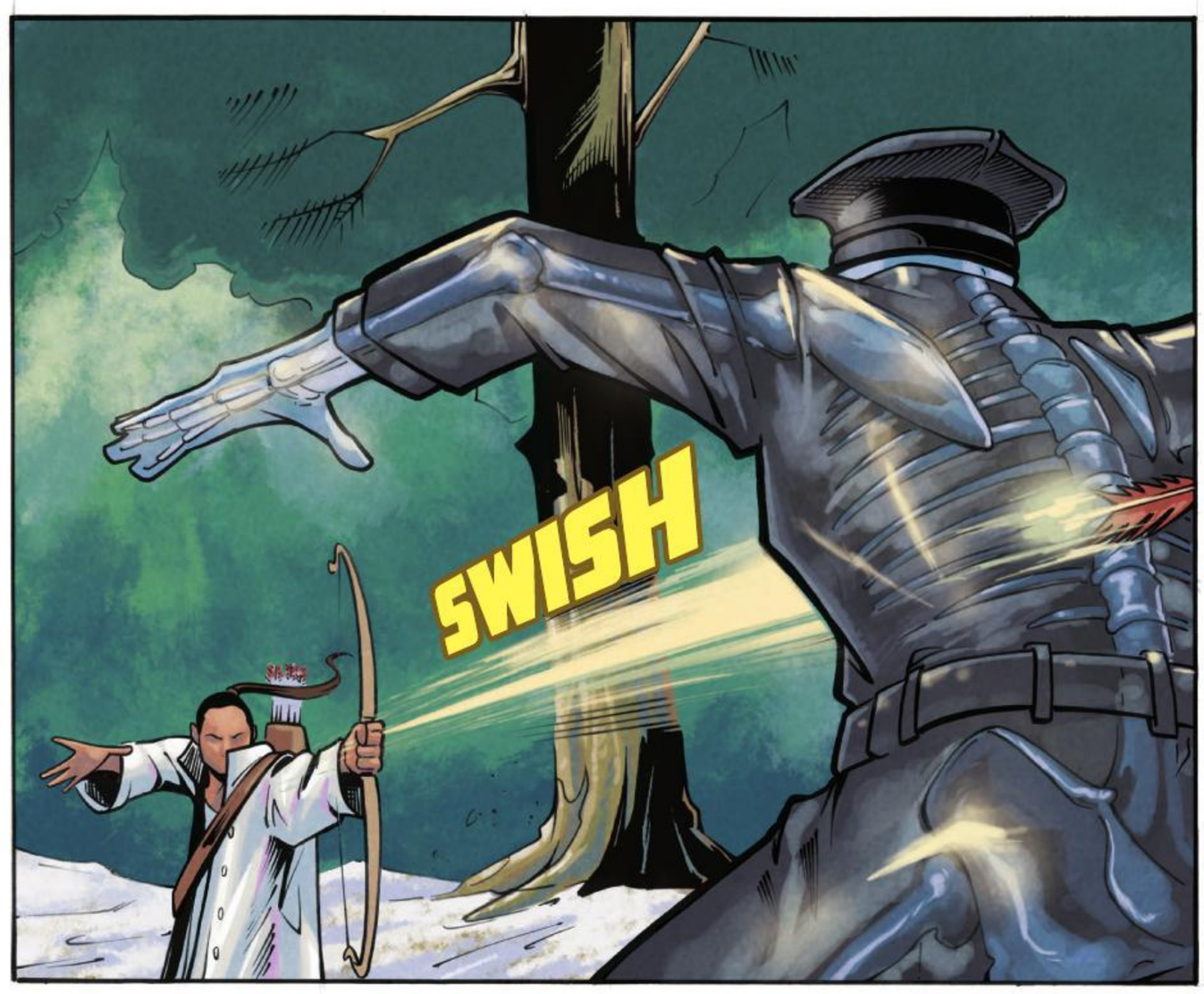

CHITTER CHITTER
CA

...UHHNN...

IT'S NEAR...

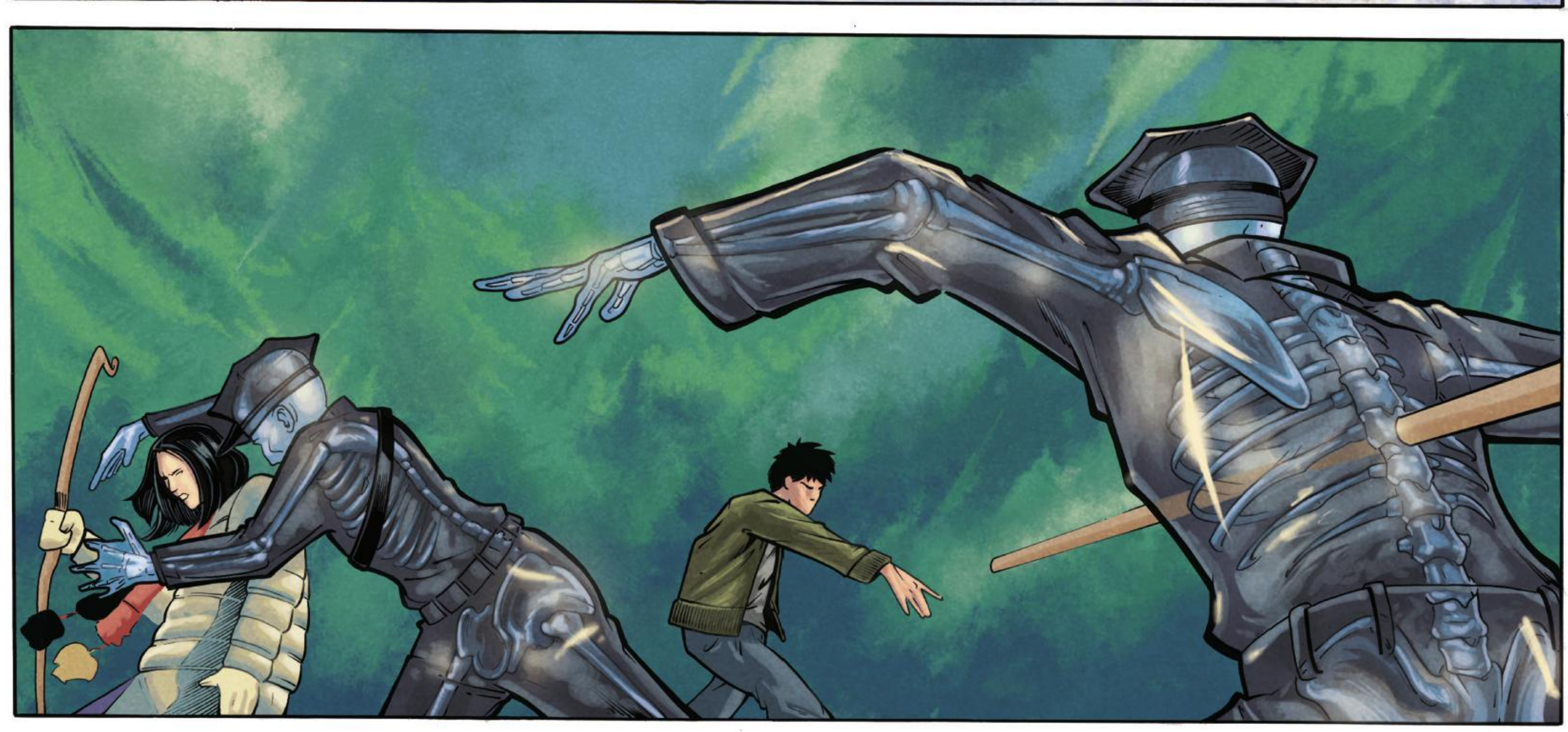
SURROUNDED.
THE GIFT IS NEAR...
WE'LL HAVE TO GO AT THEM ONE-ON-ONE.
MAYBE THEY'LL IGNORE GROVER THAT WAY.


YAH!


SWISH

MY ARROWS HAVE NO EFFECT!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MY SWORD DOES EITHER....
CHITTER
CHITTER

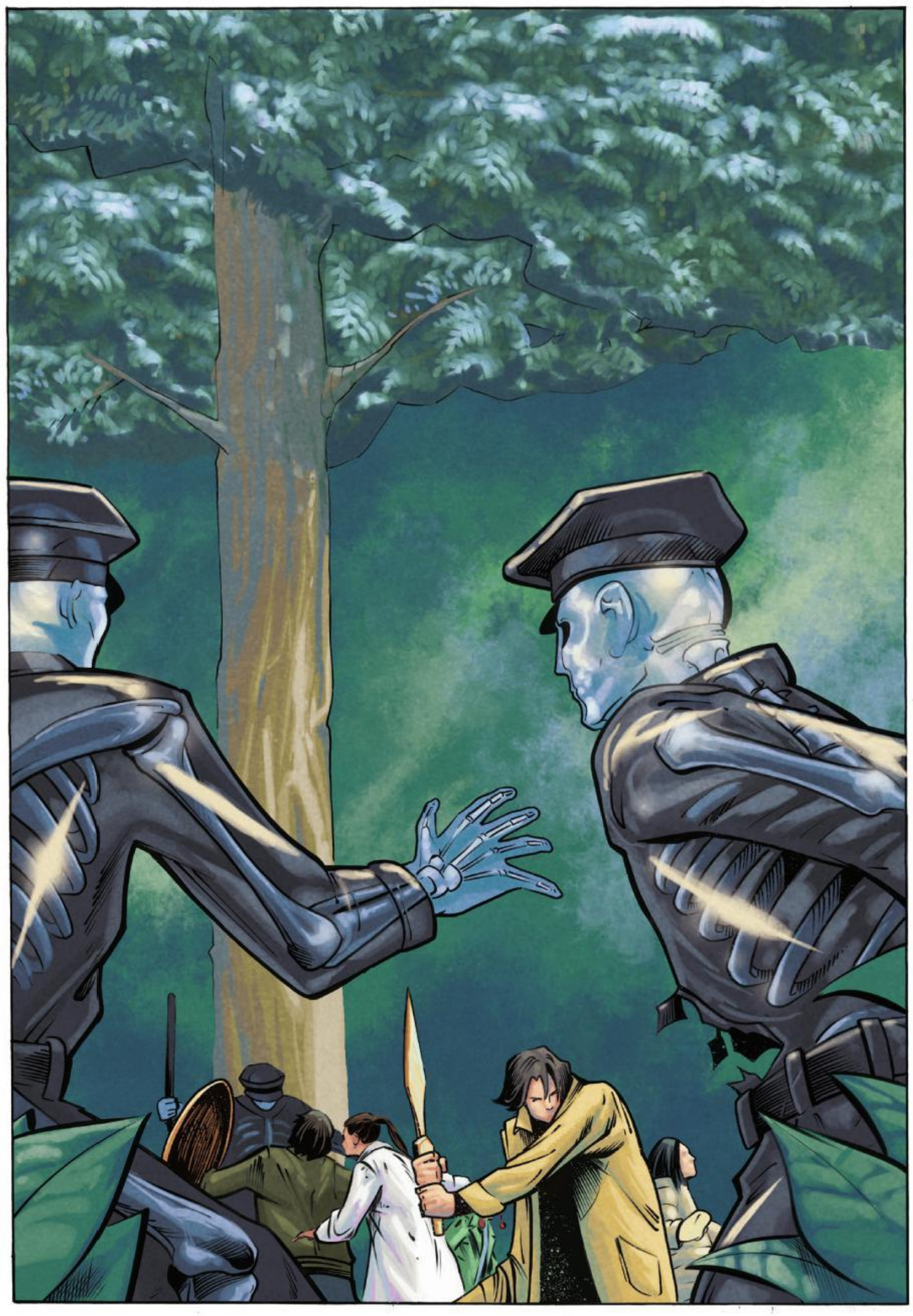


GO AWAY!

FWOOMP

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!
I...DON'T KNOW.

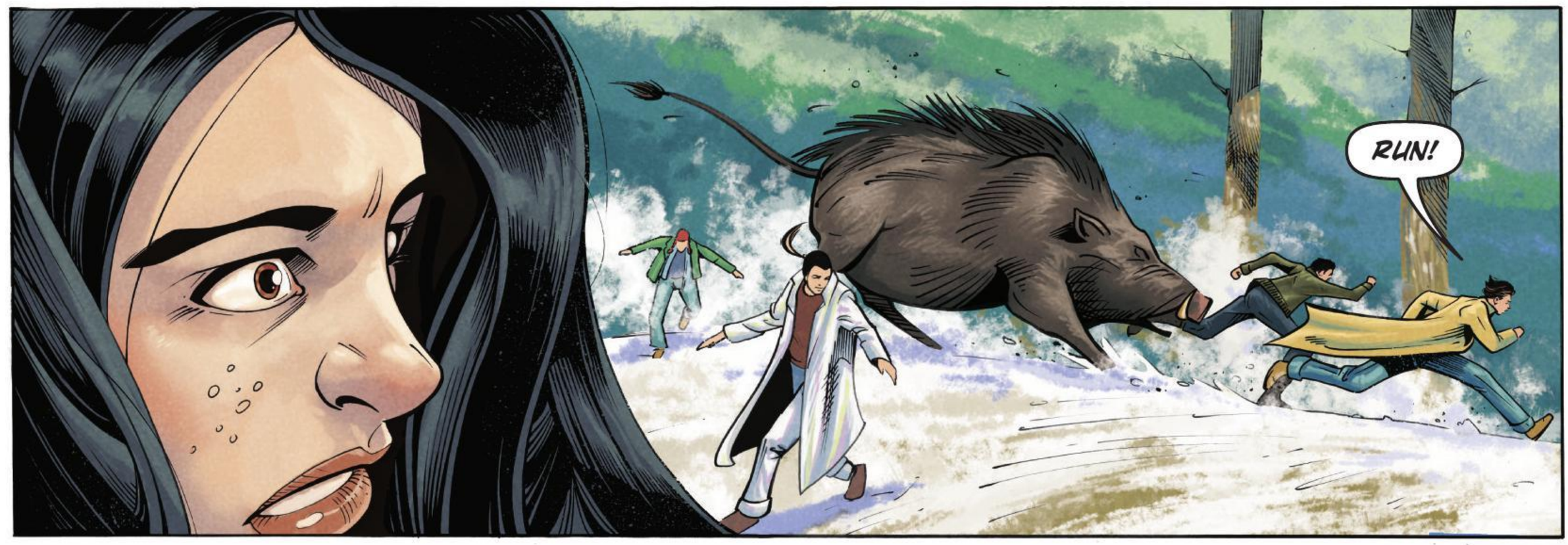
FIGURE IT OUT, SO YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN!
THE GIFT FROM THE WILD!

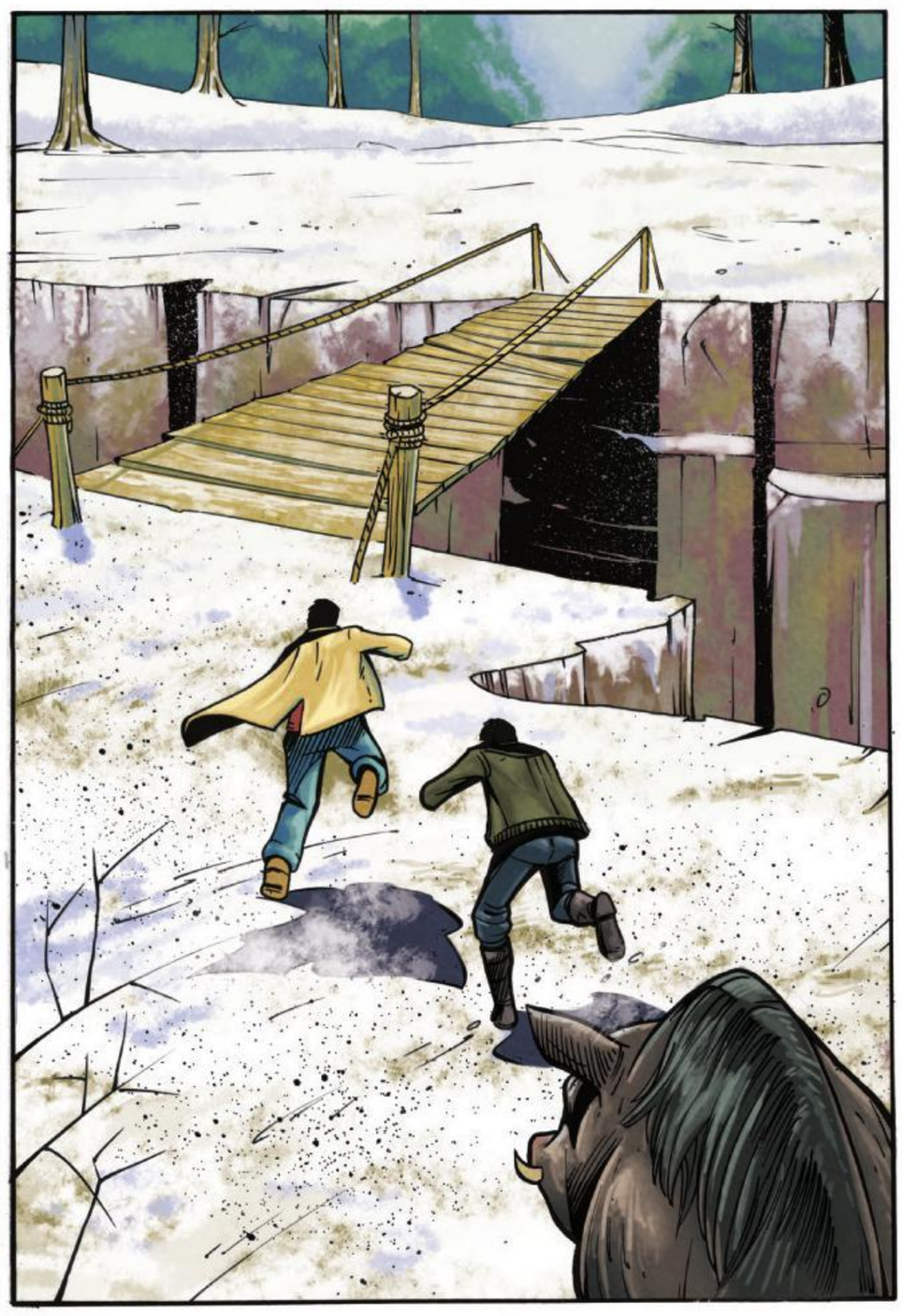


REEEEET!!

FWUMP

snrrt


RUN!



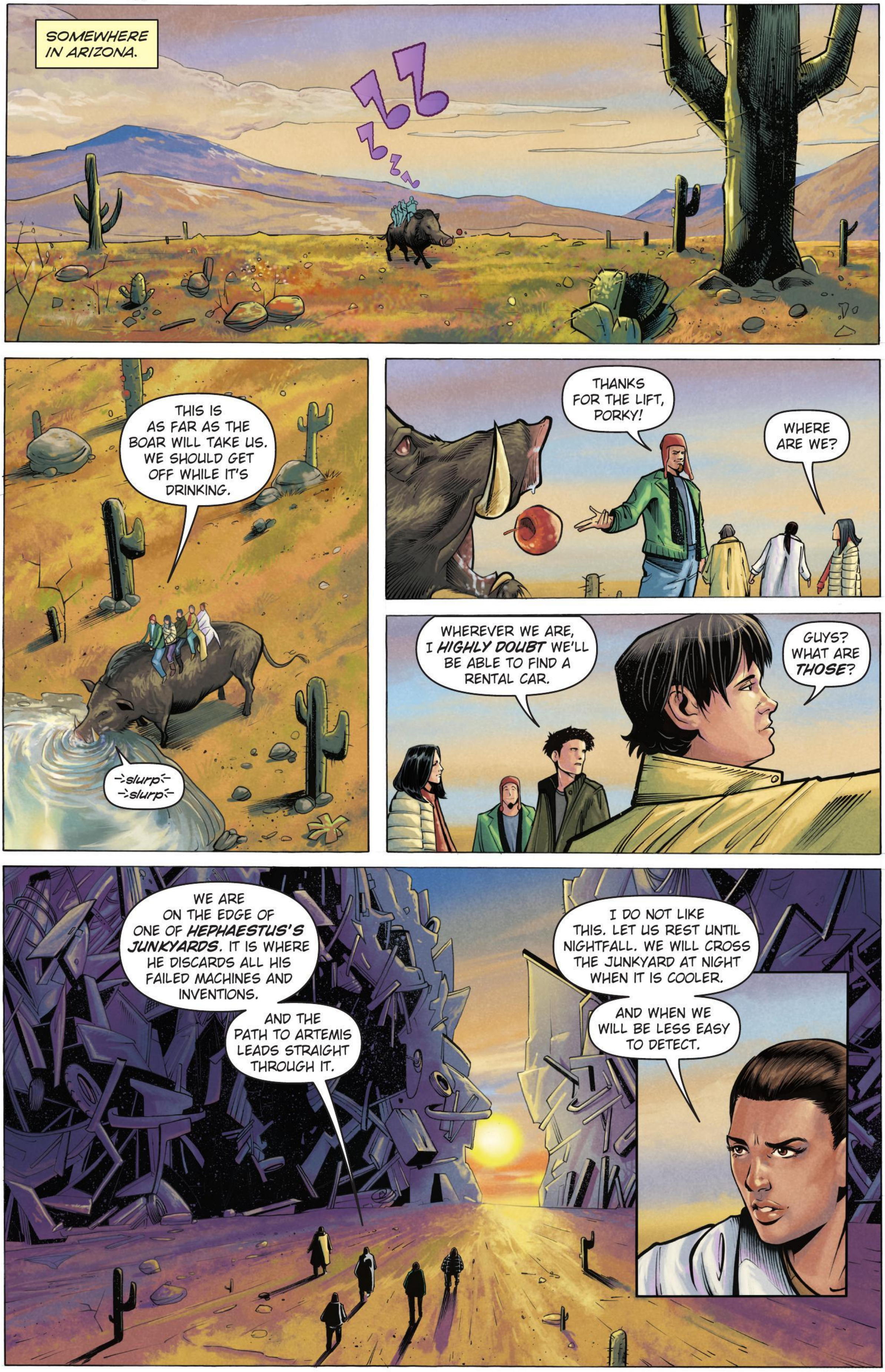
N-NO! I DON'T--!
JUMP!

-:uff:-

CRACK

REEEEET!

THOOMP
'TIS OUR RIDE WEST. WE MUST USE IT.
A BLESSING FROM THE WILD. SO COOL.
REET! REET!
OH, YOU'VE SNAPPED OUT OF IT NOW?
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHY YOU KEEP CALLING THIS THING A BLESSING.
THIS IS THE ERYMANTHIAN BOAR. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW FAST IT CAN TRAVEL?
WE'D BETTER CLIMB ABOARD. ONCE IT GETS UNSTUCK, THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING IT.
DO YOU HAVE A CLUE WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT?
DID YOU NOT FEEL IT IN THE WIND?
JUST BEFORE THE BOAR ARRIVED I FELT THE PRESENCE OF PAN, LORD OF THE WILD. CLEARLY, HE SENT THIS BEAST TO AID US.
THIS OUGHT TO HELP ME DRIVE.
SNIFF SNIFF
ZZZZZ


SOMEWHERE IN ARIZONA.
THIS IS AS FAR AS THE BOAR WILL TAKE US. WE SHOULD GET OFF WHILE IT'S DRINKING.
-slurp-
-slurp-
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, PORKY!
WHERE ARE WE?
WHEREVER WE ARE, I HIGHLY DOUBT WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND A RENTAL CAR.
GUYS? WHAT ARE THOSE?
WE ARE ON THE EDGE OF ONE OF HEPHAESTUS'S JUNKYARDS. IT IS WHERE HE DISCARDS ALL HIS FAILED MACHINES AND INVENTIONS.
AND THE PATH TO ARTEMIS LEADS STRAIGHT THROUGH IT.
I DO NOT LIKE THIS. LET US REST UNTIL NIGHTFALL. WE WILL CROSS THE JUNKYARD AT NIGHT WHEN IT IS COOLER.
AND WHEN WE WILL BE LESS EASY TO DETECT.

MAYBE IT WAS *THE COFFEE*. I WAS DRINKING COFFEE, AND THEN THAT BREEZE CAME THROUGH.
MAYBE IF I DRINK MORE COFFEE...
DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WAS PAN?
I MEAN, I KNOW YOU *WANT* IT TO BE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT HE SENT US HELP.
AFTER THIS QUEST, I'M GOING BACK TO NEW MEXICO AND DRINKING *LOTS* OF COFFEE.
IT'S THE BEST LEAD ANY SATYR HAS HAD IN TWO THOUSAND YEARS. I WAS *SO CLOSE*.

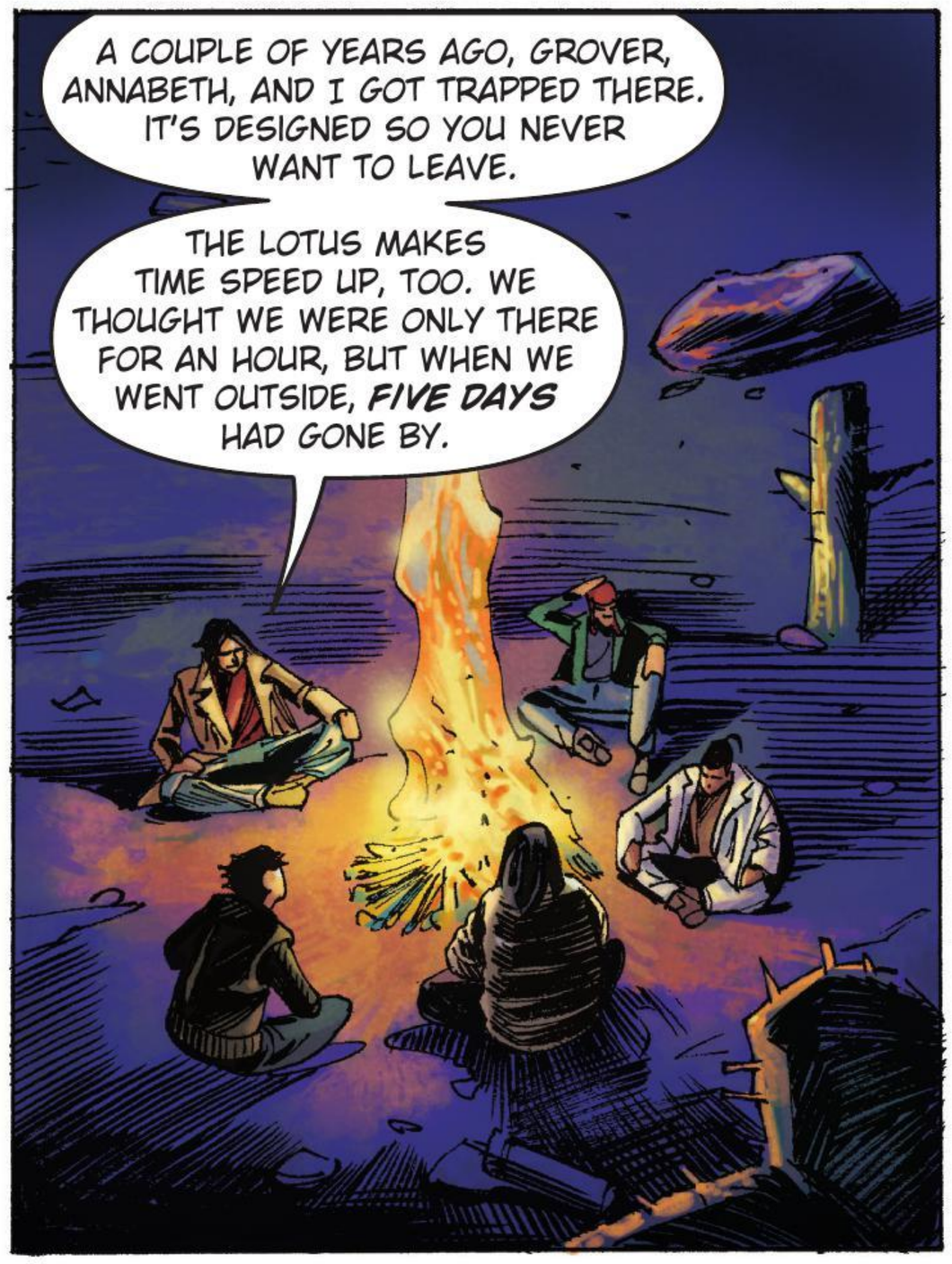
WHAT I'M WONDERING IS HOW YOU DESTROYED THAT SKELETON. THERE ARE FIVE MORE OUT THERE, AND WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO FIGHT THEM.
I DON'T KNOW...MY KNIFE IS THE SAME AS ZOË'S. MAYBE I JUST HIT IT IN THE RIGHT SPOT?

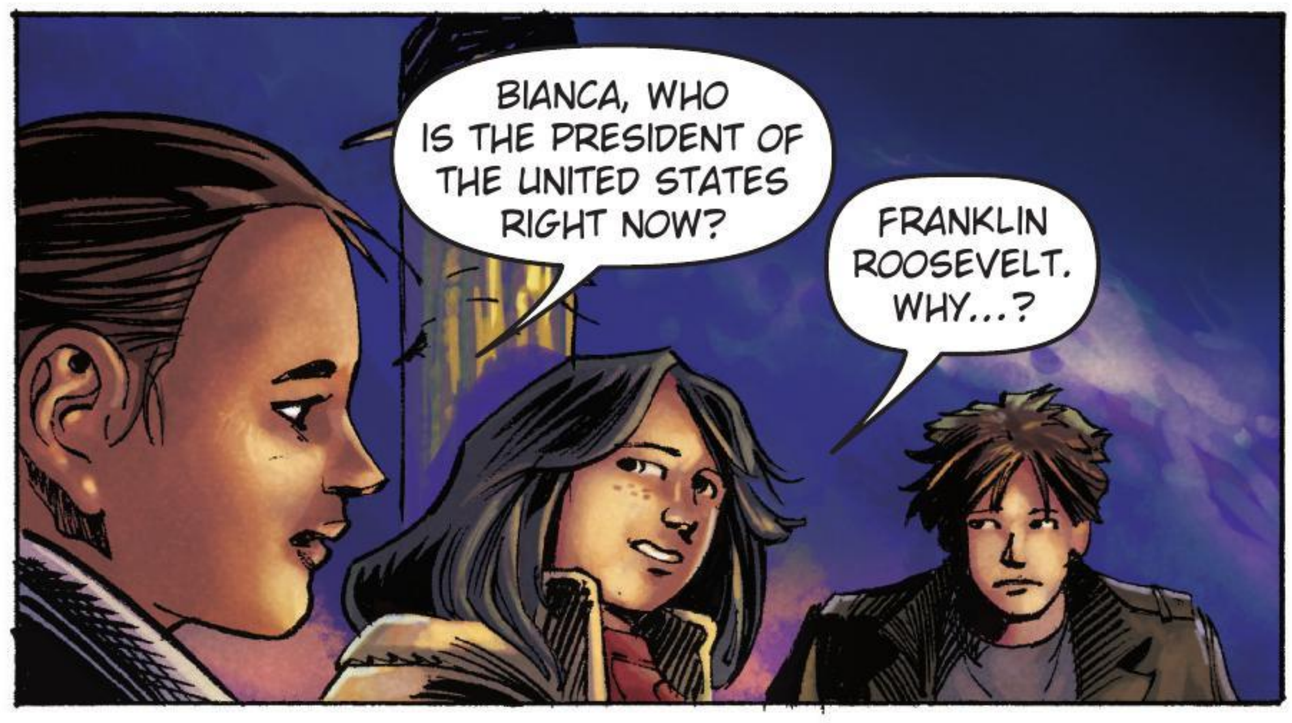
NEVER MIND. WHAT WE SHOULD DO NOW IS PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE.
WHEN WE GET THROUGH THE JUNKYARD, WE SHOULD CONTINUE WEST TO THE NEAREST CITY. THAT WOULD BE LAS VEGAS, IF I'M NOT--

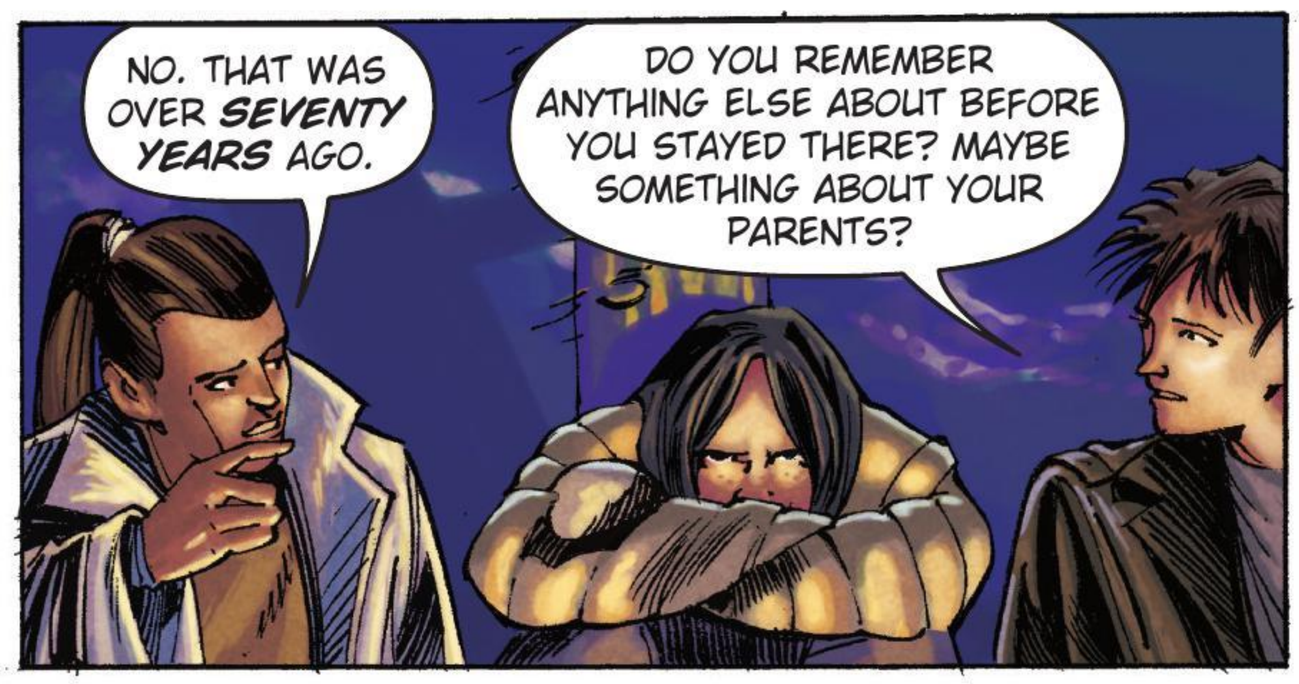
NO WAY! *NOT THERE!*
NICO AND I STAYED AT A HOTEL IN VEGAS WHEN WE WERE TRAVELING. AND THEN...I CAN'T REMEMBER...

-gulp-

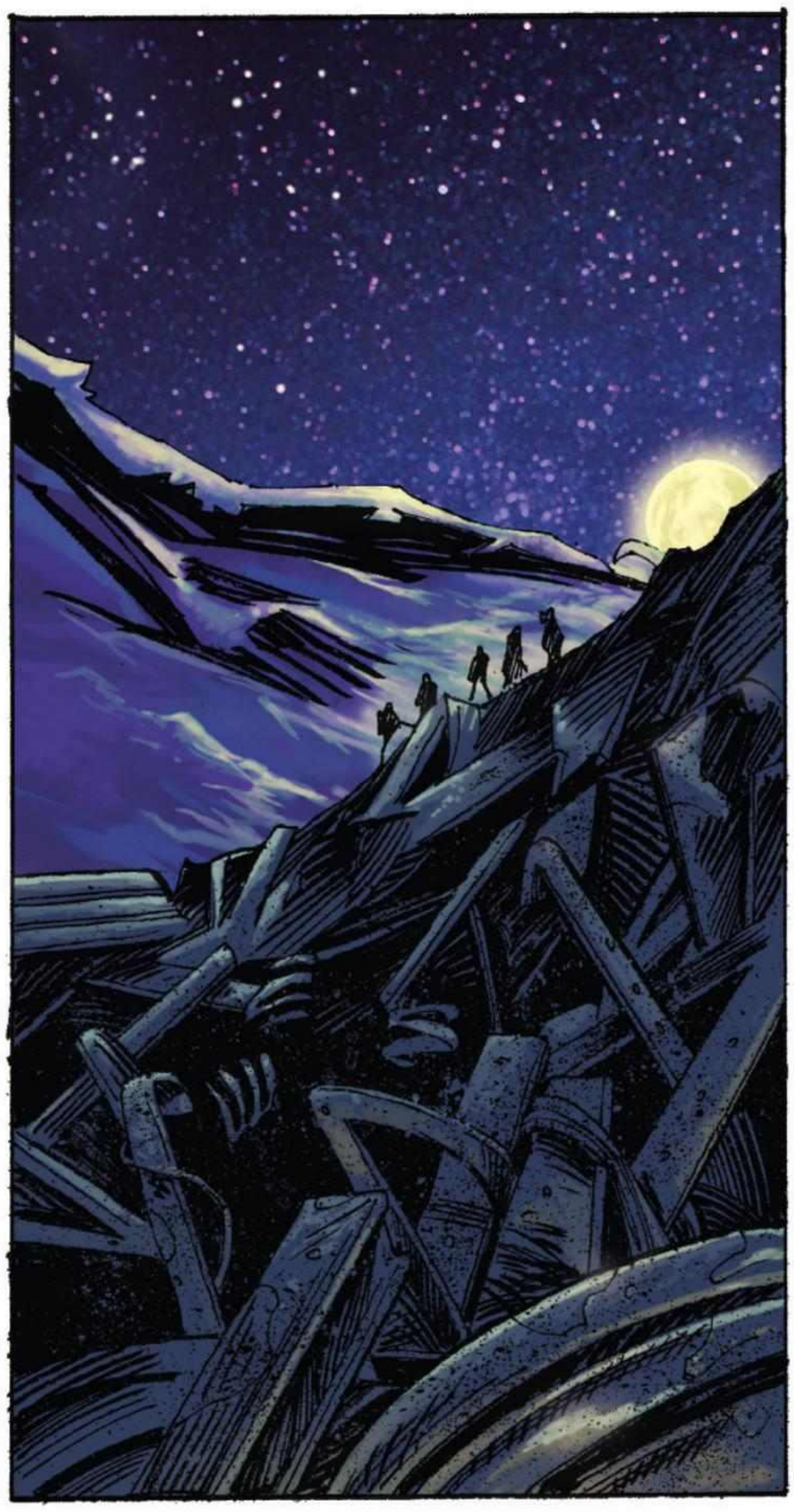
BIANCA, THAT HOTEL YOU STAYED AT. WAS IT POSSIBLY CALLED--
--THE LOTUS HOTEL AND CASINO?
YEAH. WHY?
OH, GREAT....

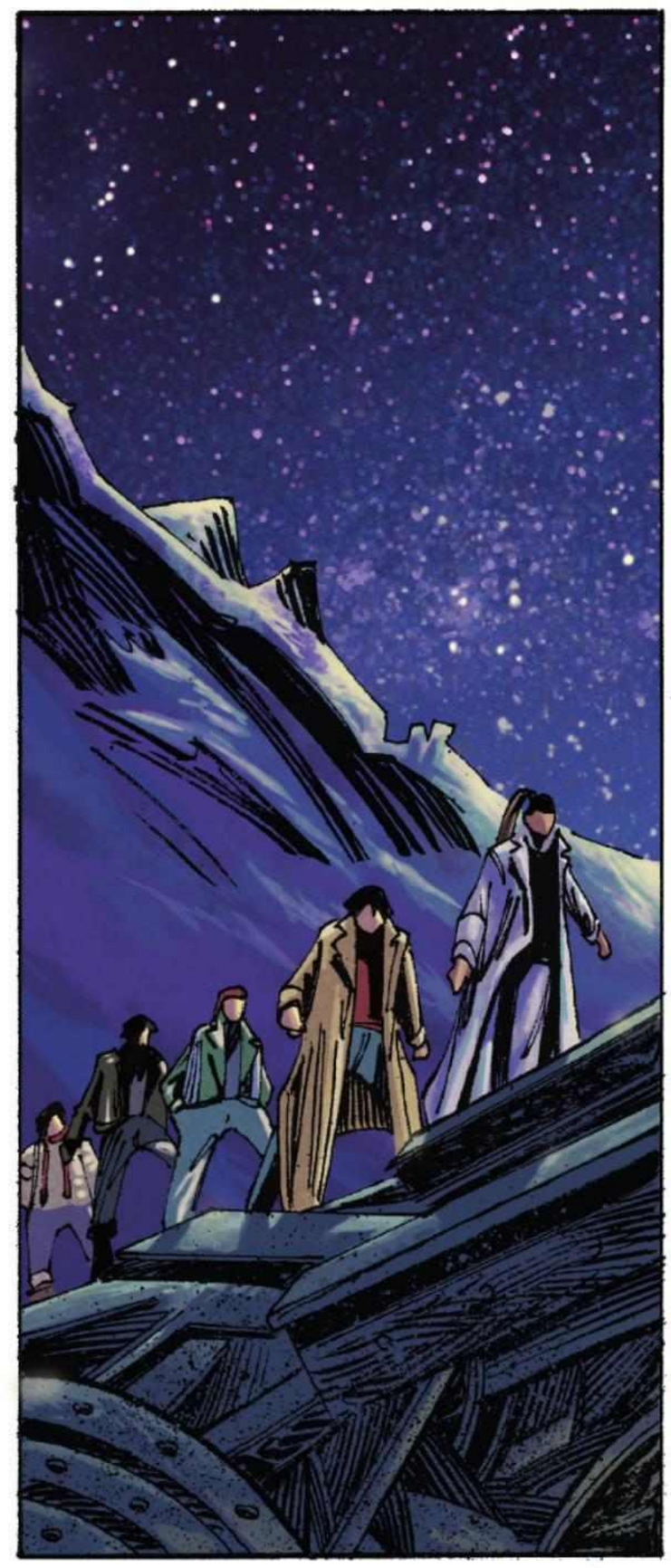

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, GROVER, ANNABETH, AND I GOT TRAPPED THERE. IT'S DESIGNED SO YOU NEVER WANT TO LEAVE.
THE LOTUS MAKES TIME SPEED UP, TOO. WE THOUGHT WE WERE ONLY THERE FOR AN HOUR, BUT WHEN WE WENT OUTSIDE, FIVE DAYS HAD GONE BY.


BIANCA, WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RIGHT NOW?
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT. WHY...?

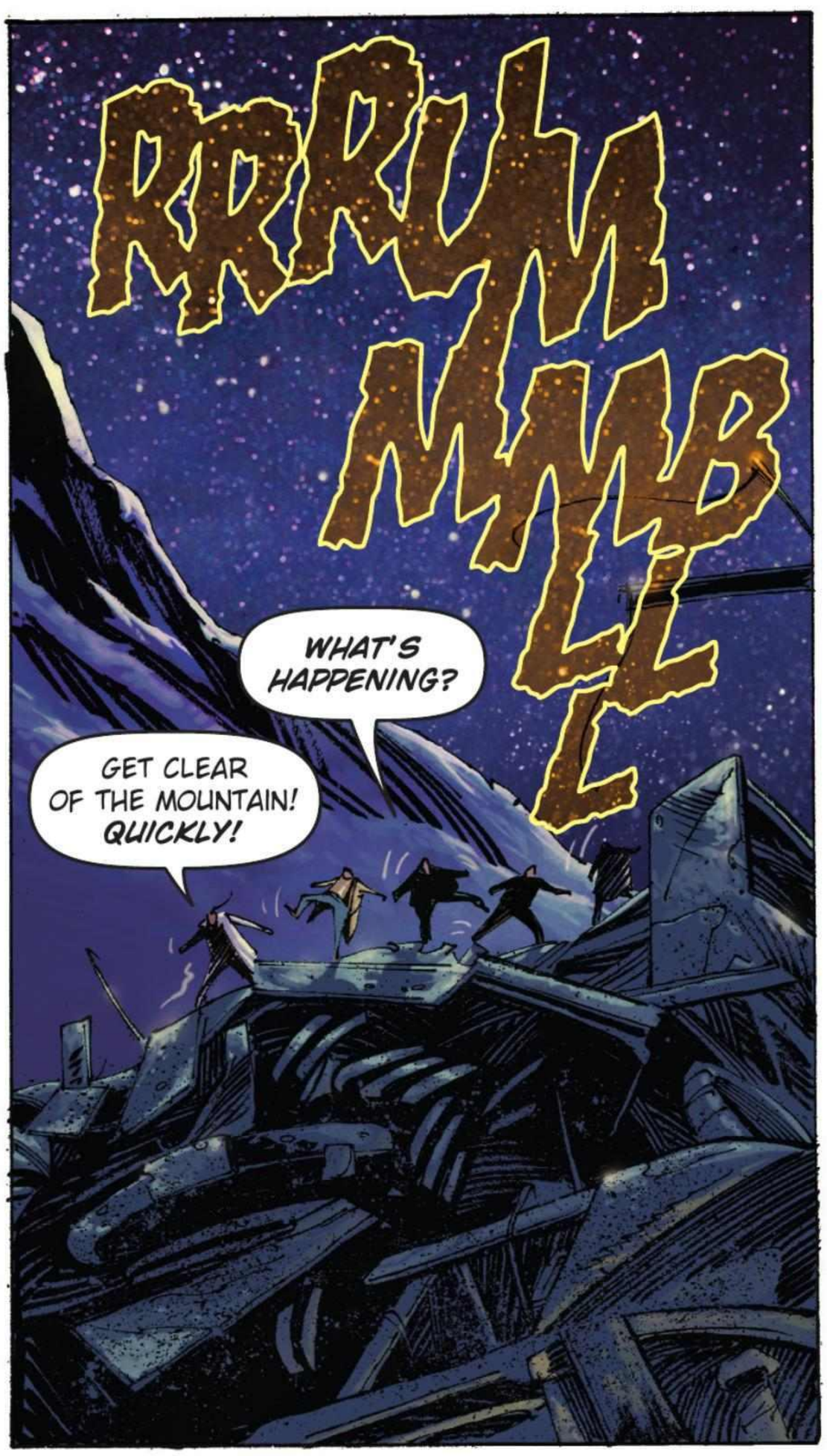

NO. THAT WAS OVER SEVENTY YEARS AGO.
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT BEFORE YOU STAYED THERE? MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

YOU GUYS ARE FREAKING ME OUT. LET'S JUST GO.



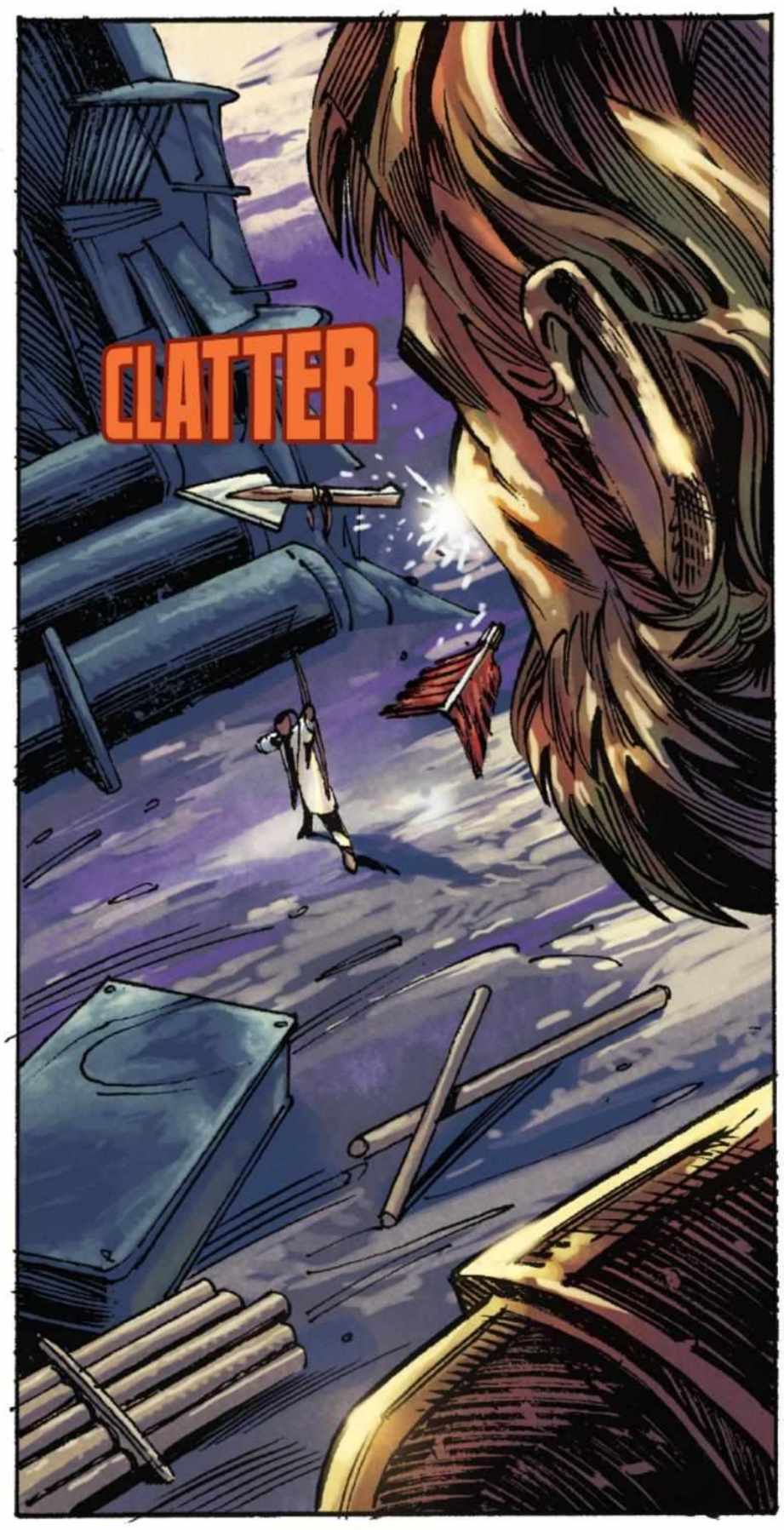


THERE'S THE ROAD. WE MADE IT.


RRRUMMMBLLL
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
GET CLEAR OF THE MOUNTAIN! QUICKLY!

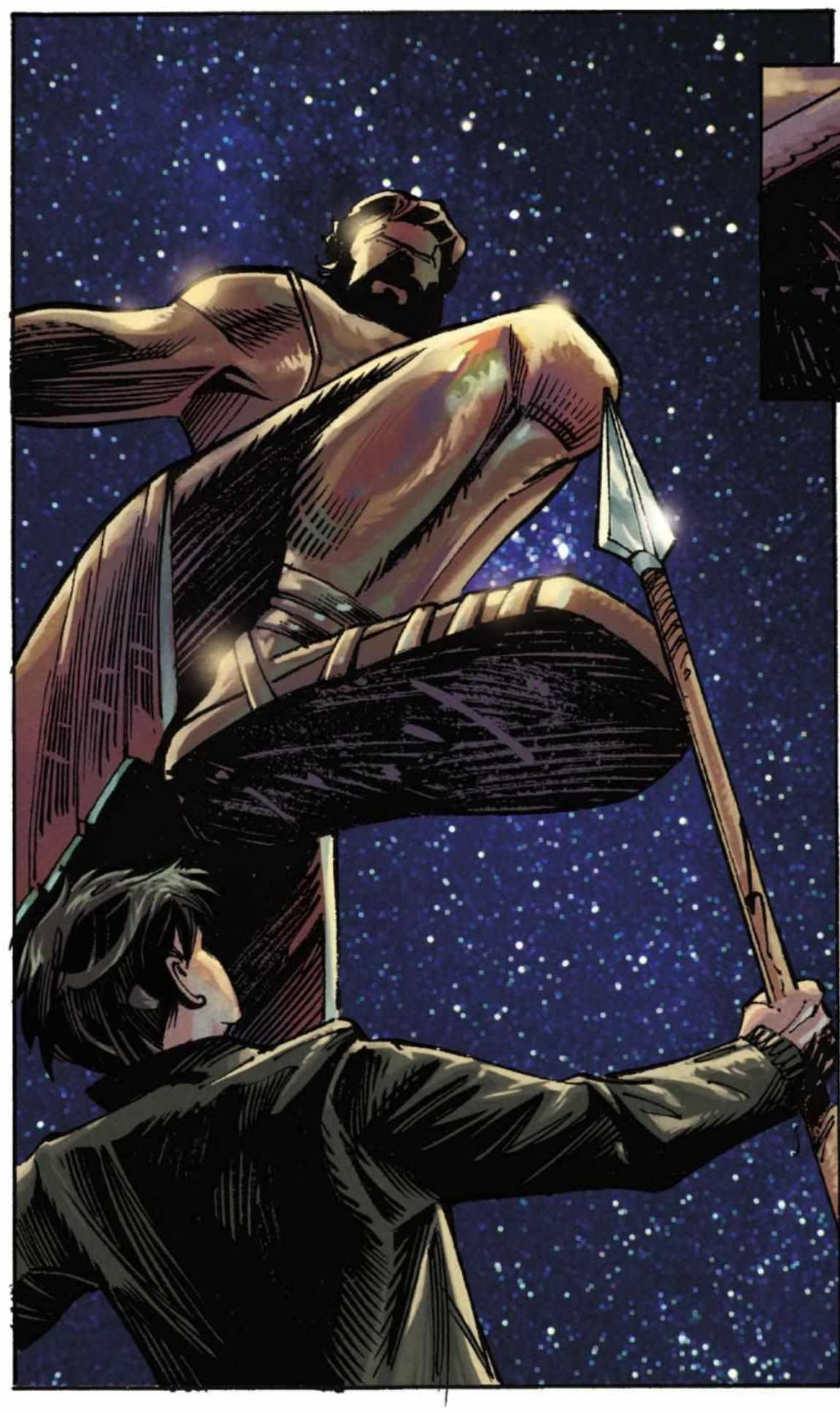
RRUMMMBLLL
IS IT AN AVALANCHE?
NO. THE MOUNTAIN ISN'T FALLING DOWN.
IT'S STANDING UP.

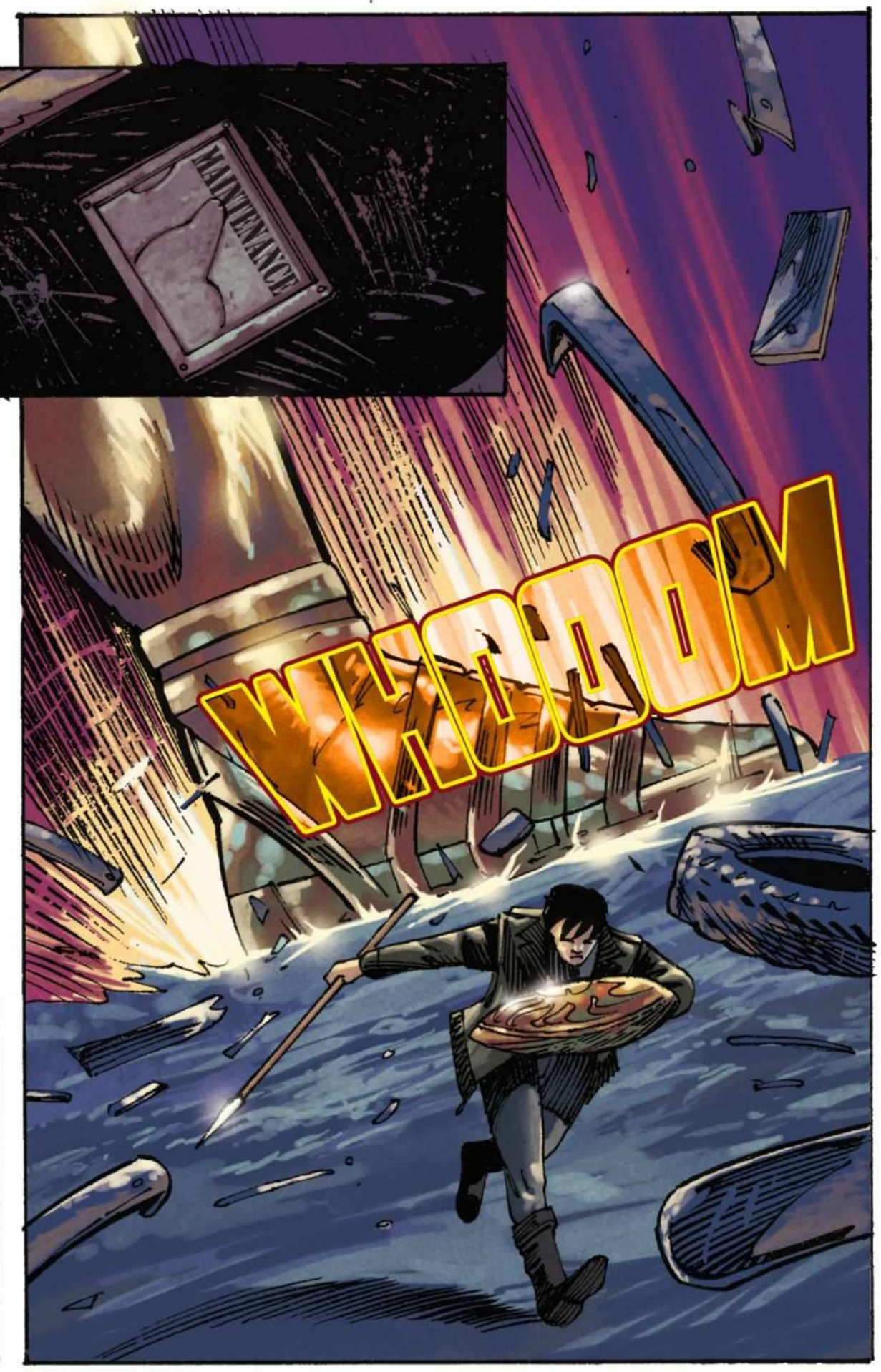
TALOS!
SOMEONE HAS TAKEN SOMETHING FROM THE JUNKYARD! WHO DID IT?
NOT ME! JEEZ, WHY DO I ALWAYS GET BLAMED?
YOU CAN ARGUE LATER, GUYS! TAKE COVER!
SLAM
SO MUCH STUFF...I DIDN'T KNOW...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I FOUND IT IN THE JUNK PILE. IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE WANTED IT.
IT'S THE ONLY FIGURINE NICO DOESN'T HAVE....

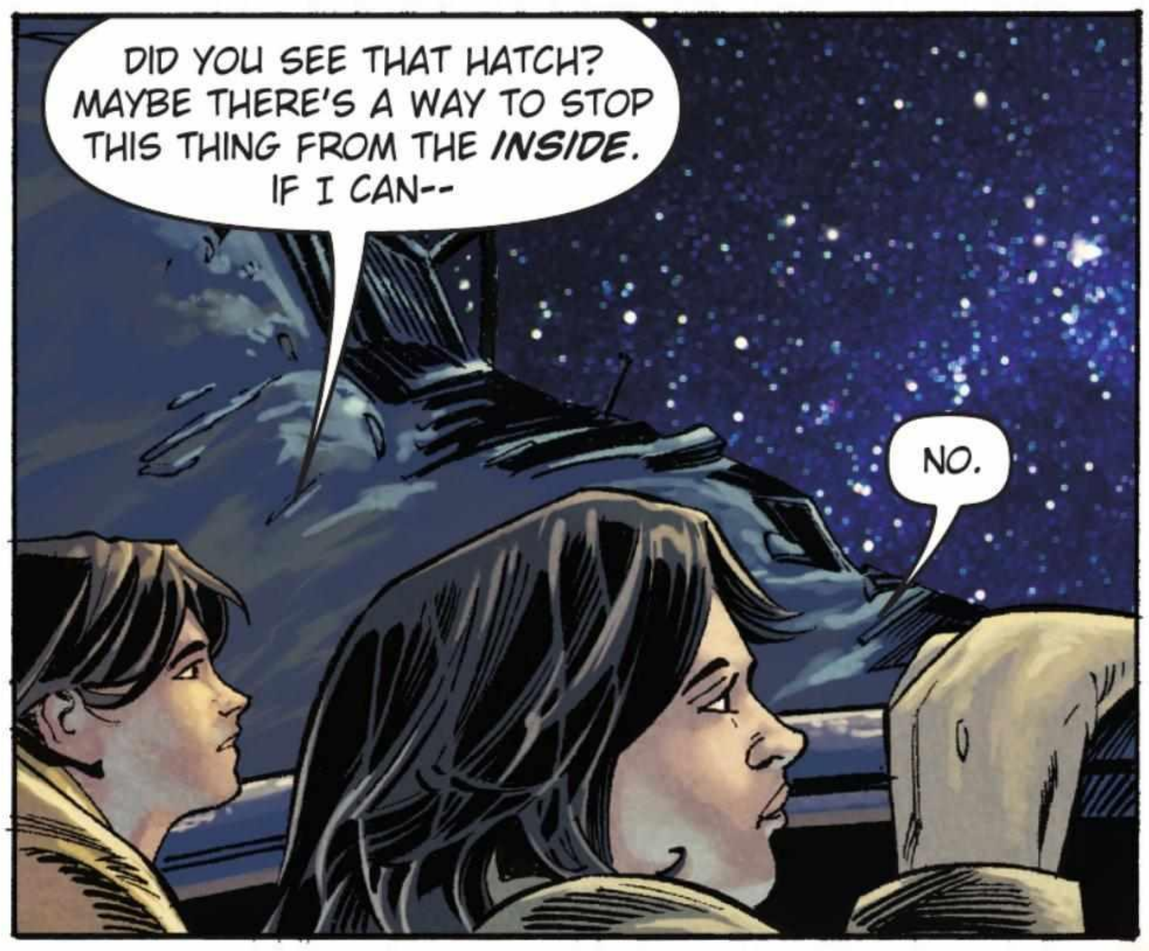

CLATTER

AAAH!
CRUNCH

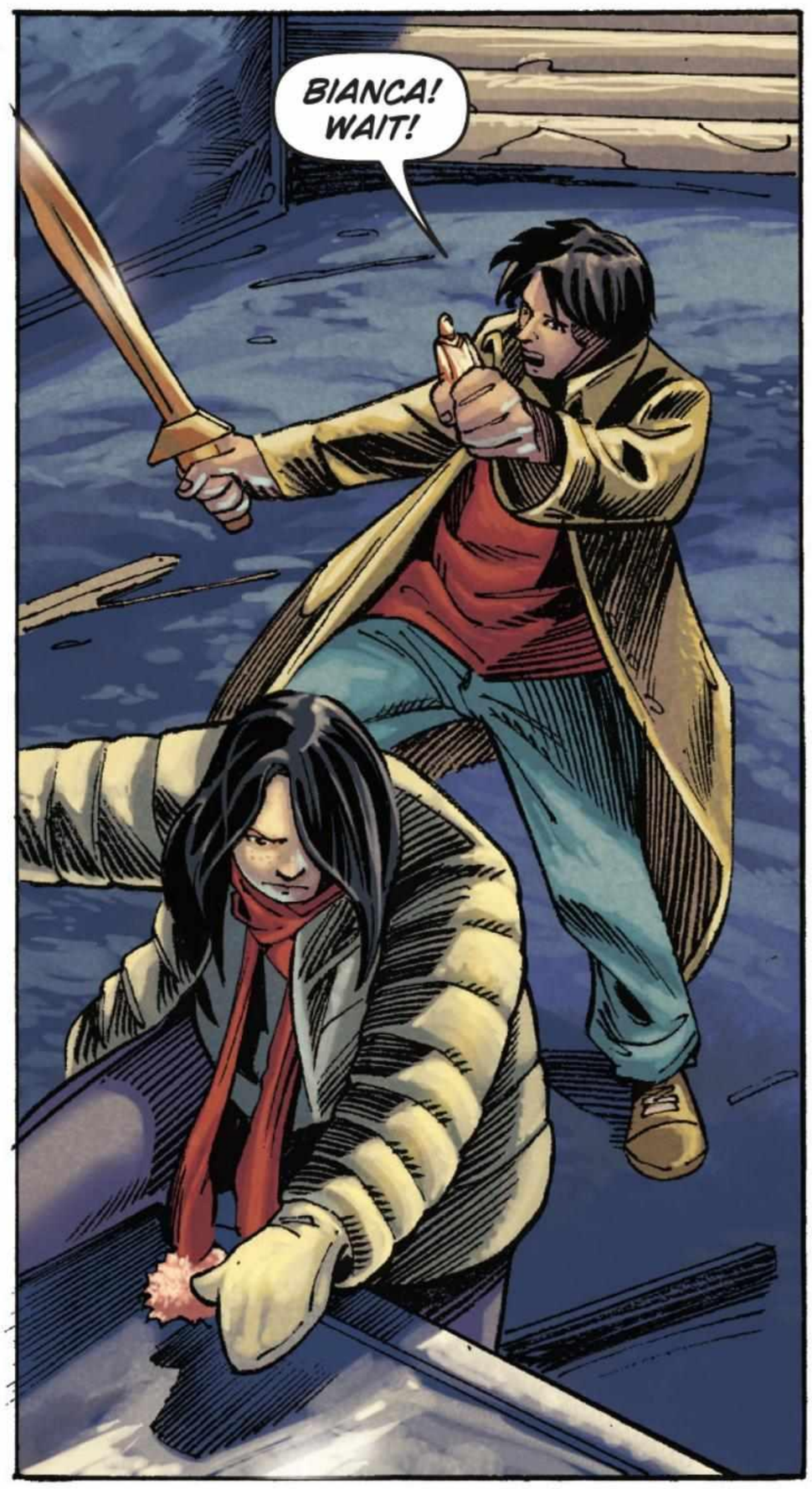
HI-YA!
ZZ-ZAT




MAINTENANCE
WHOOM


DID YOU SEE THAT HATCH? MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO STOP THIS THING FROM THE *INSIDE*. IF I CAN--
NO.

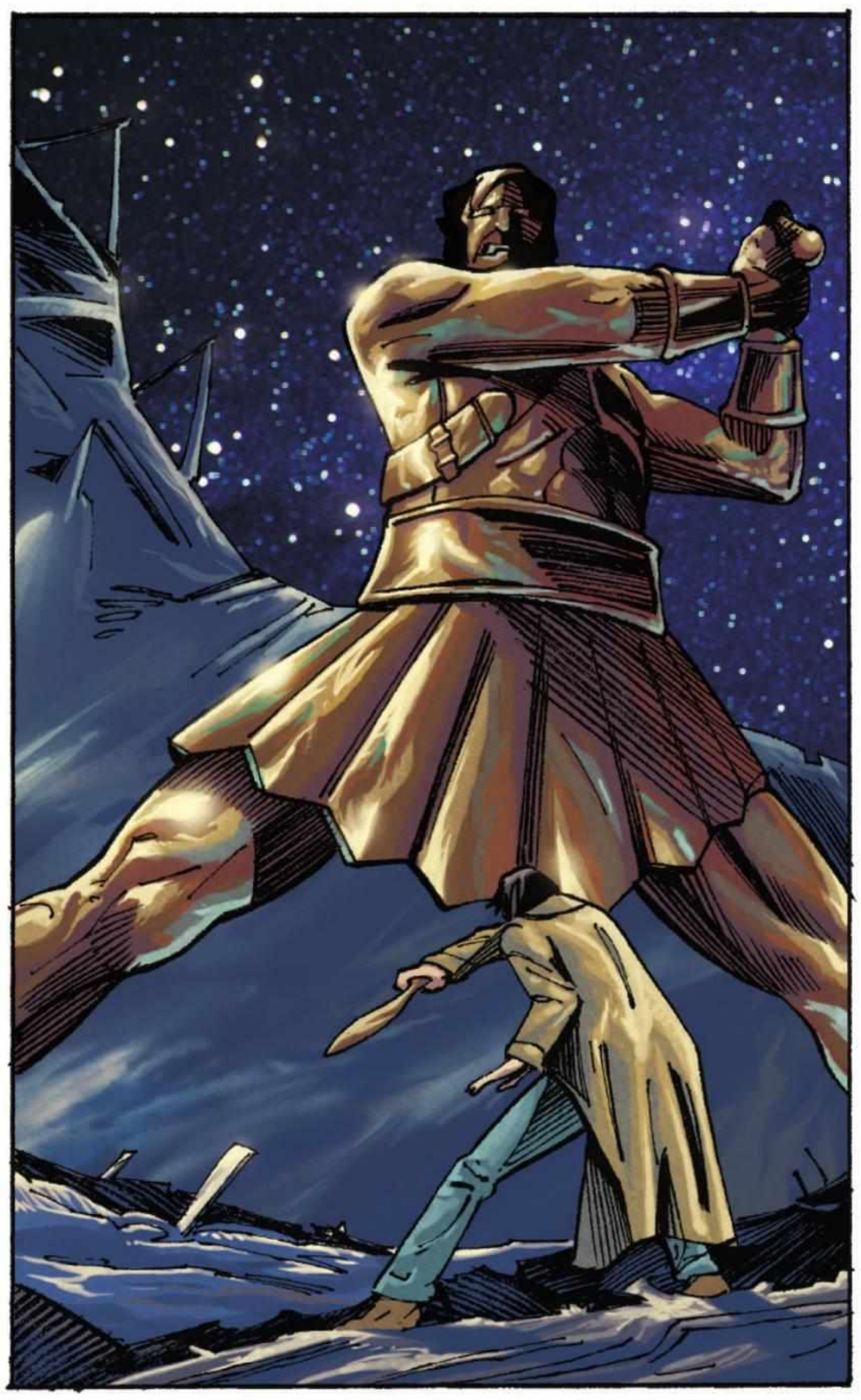
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE FIGURINE.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, GIVE IT TO NICO. TELL HIM I'M SORRY.


BIANCA! WAIT!

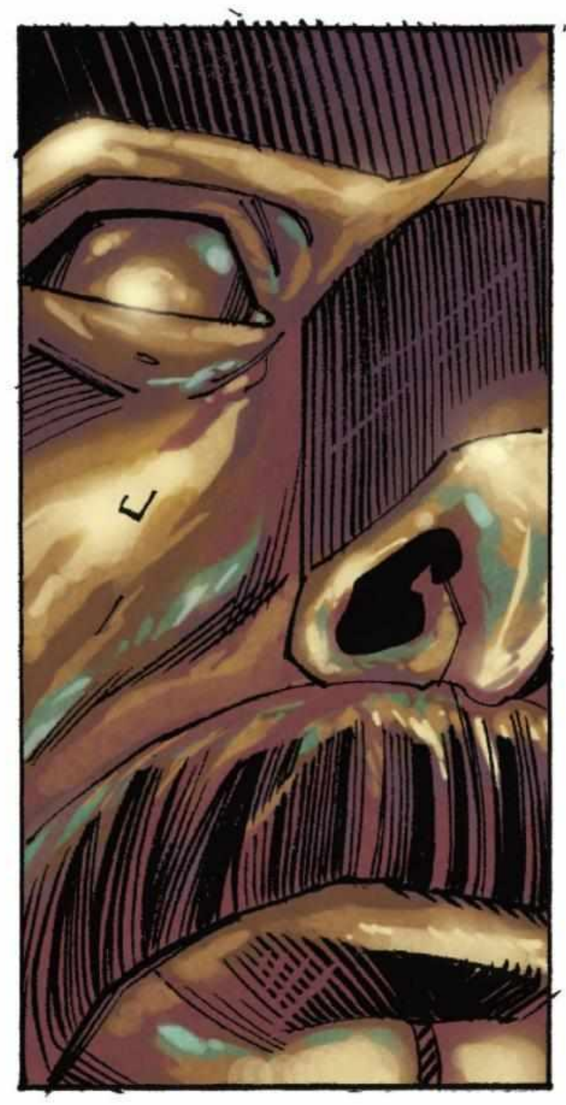
HEY, RUST BRAINS! DOWN HERE!

BOOM

NO!



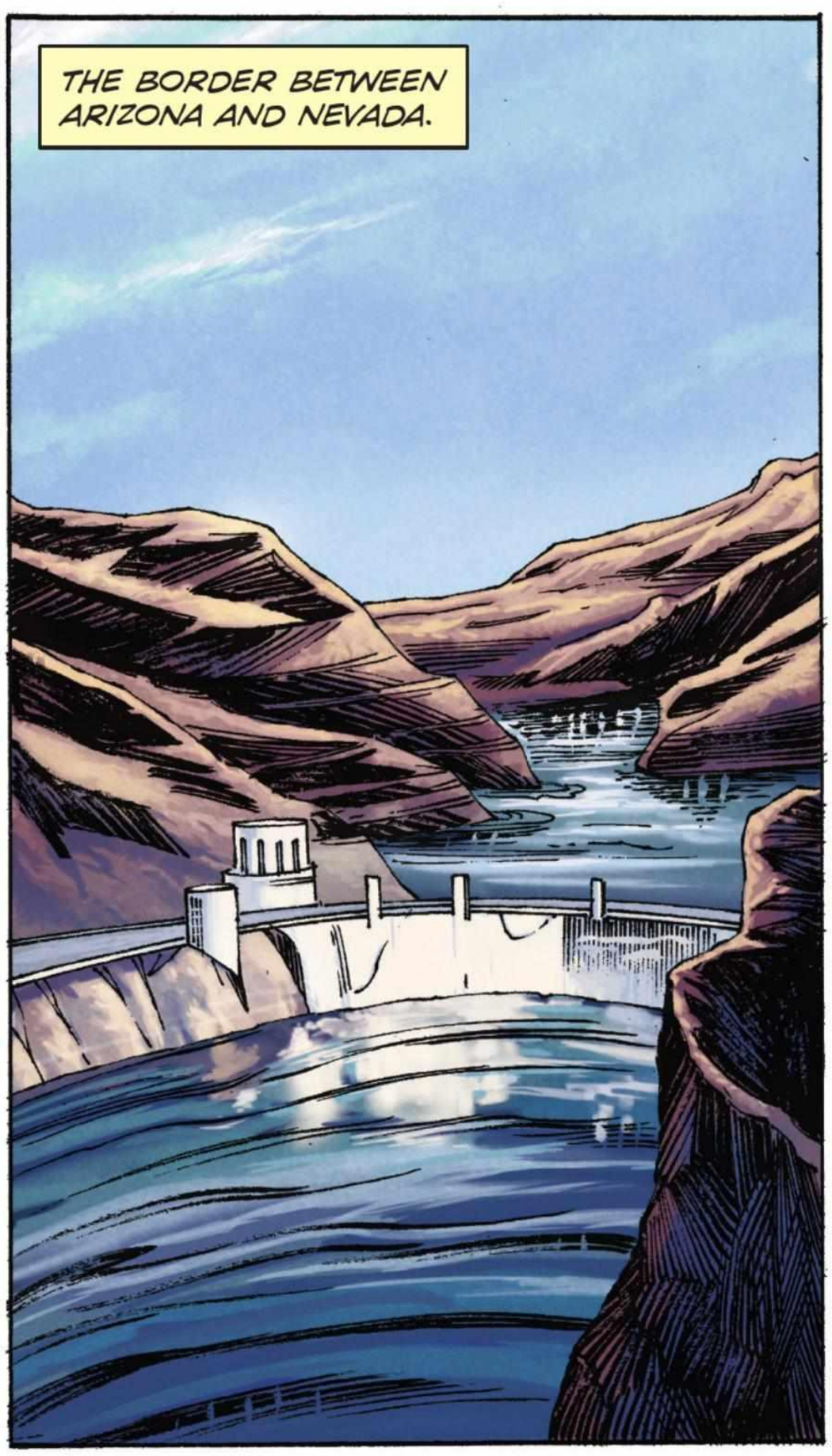
RRRK

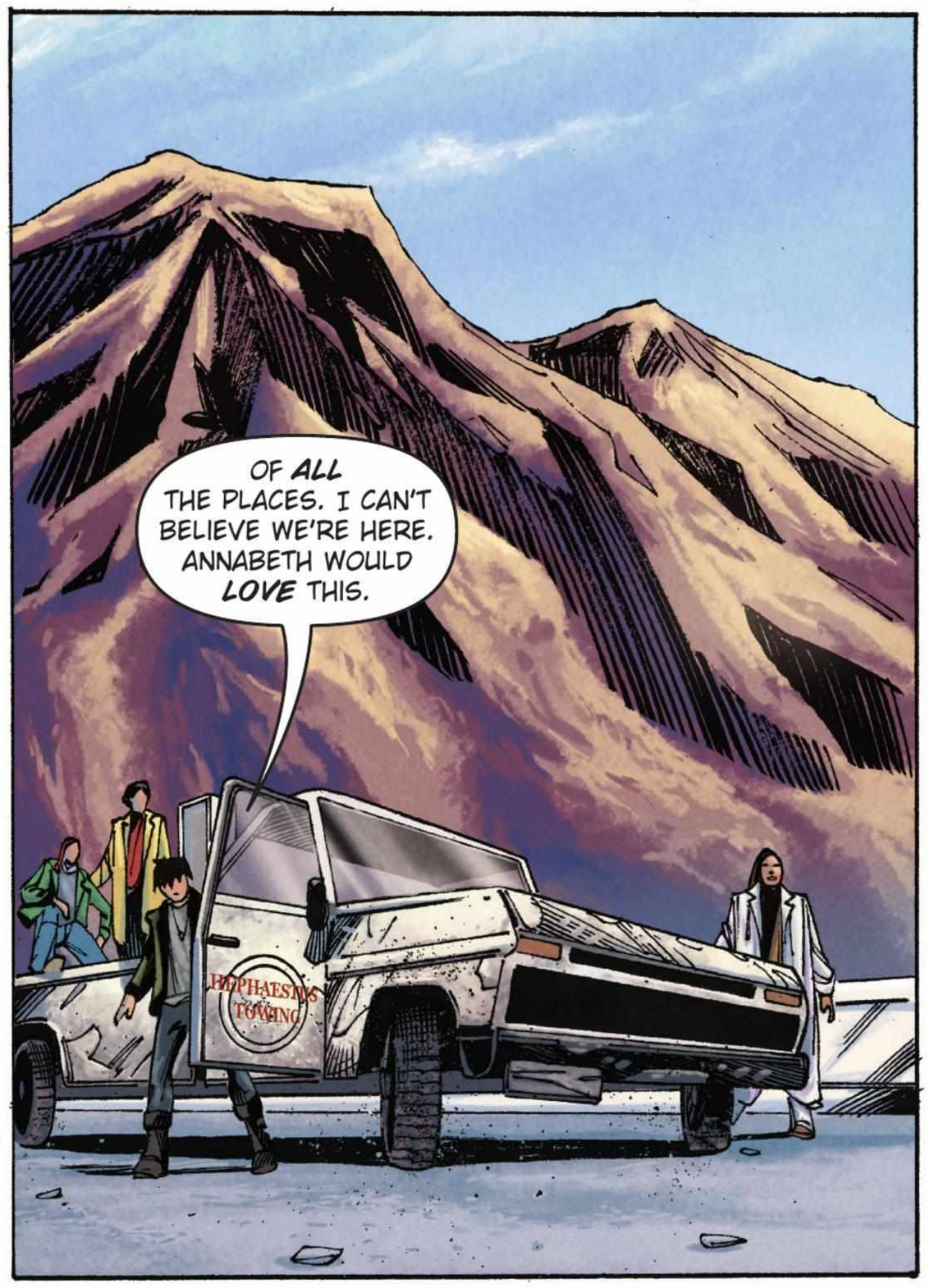


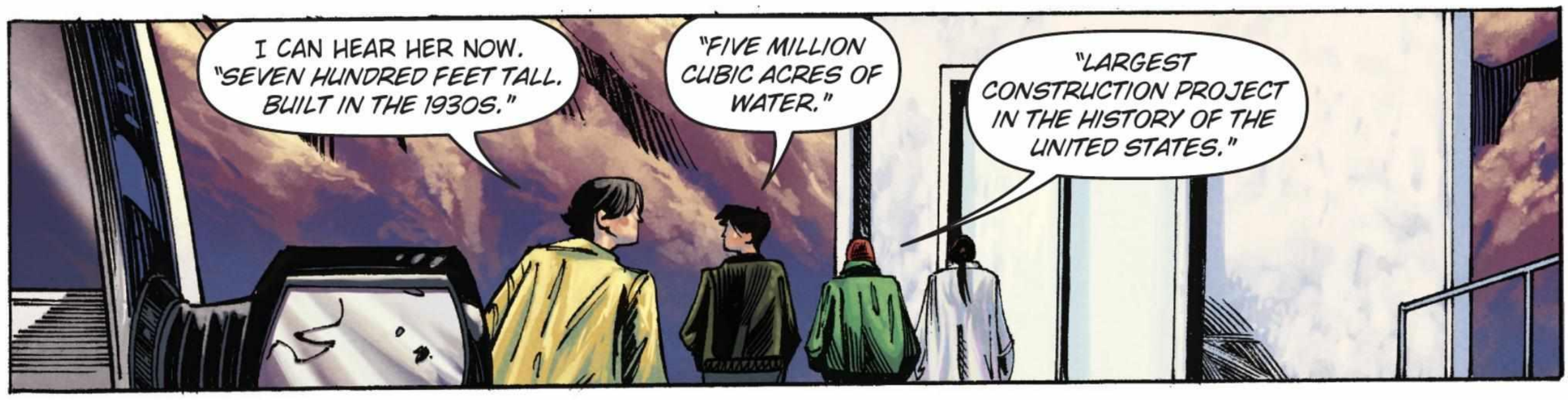
BIANCA!
BA-BOOOM

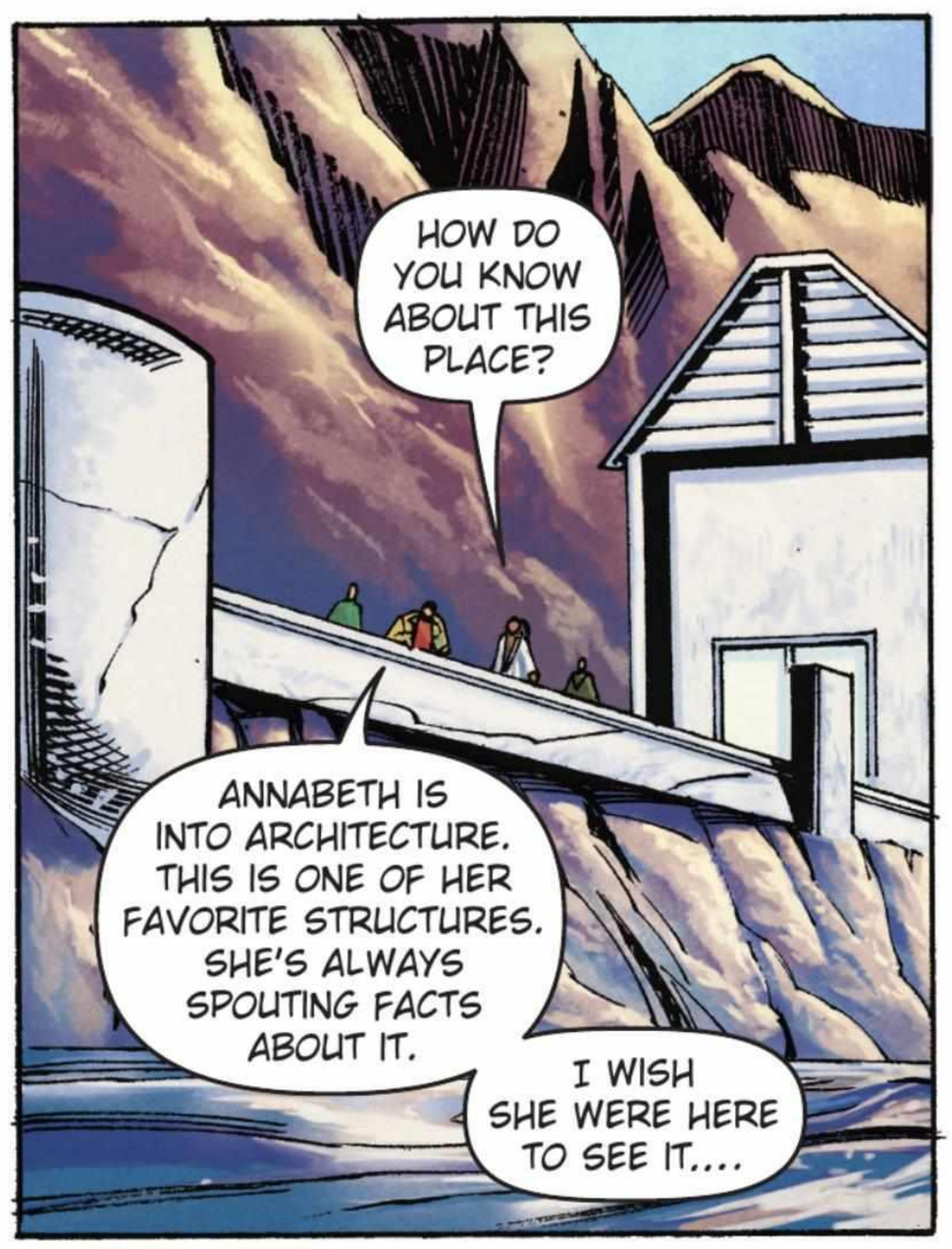
TALK ABOUT BLOWING A FUSE.
WHERE IS BIANCA?

IT HAPPENED JUST LIKE THE ORACLE SAID: "ONE WILL BE LOST IN THE LAND WITHOUT RAIN."
BIANCA IS GONE.


THE BORDER BETWEEN ARIZONA AND NEVADA.

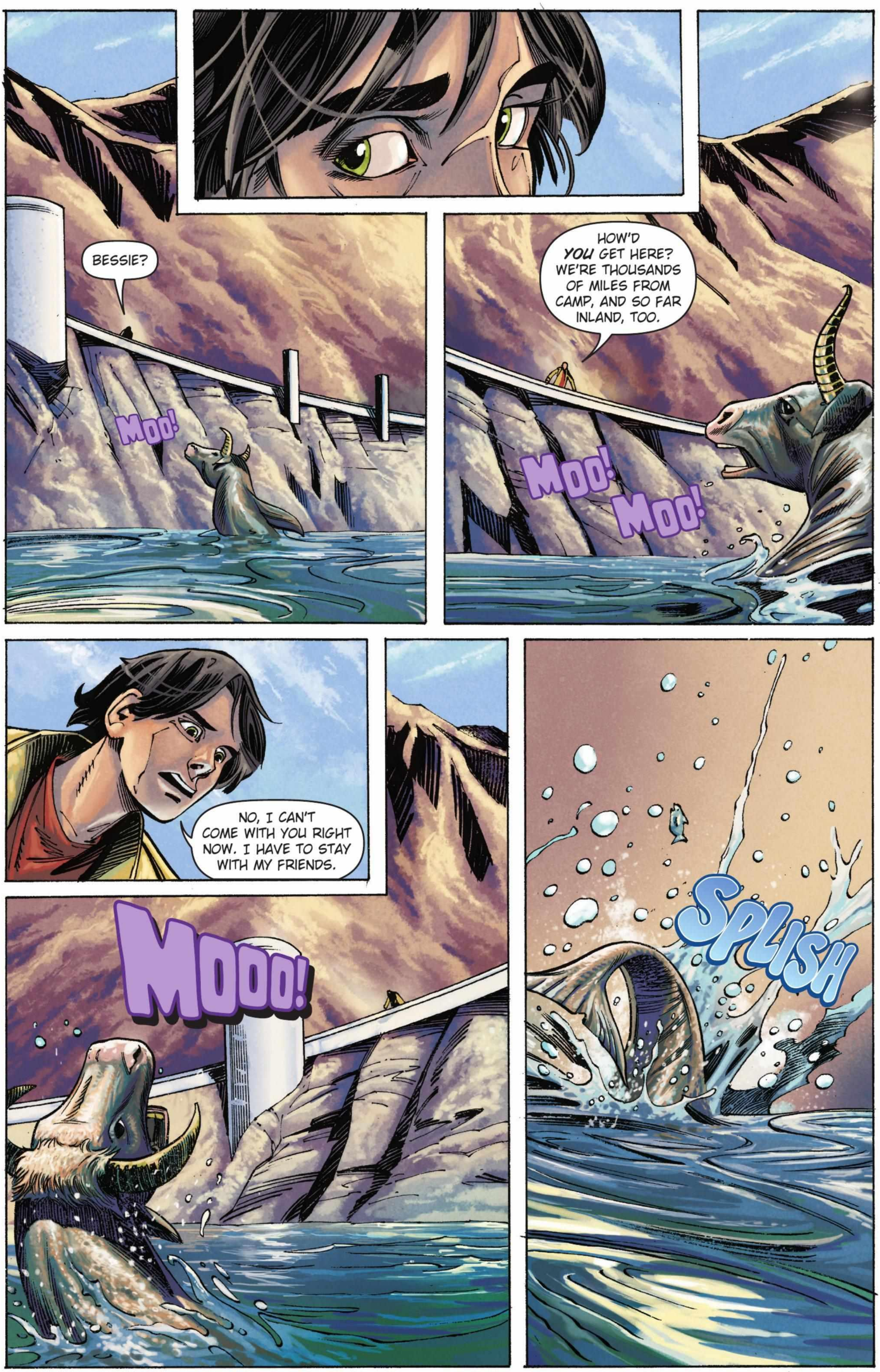

OF ALL THE PLACES. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE HERE. ANNABETH WOULD LOVE THIS.
HEPHAESTUS TOWING

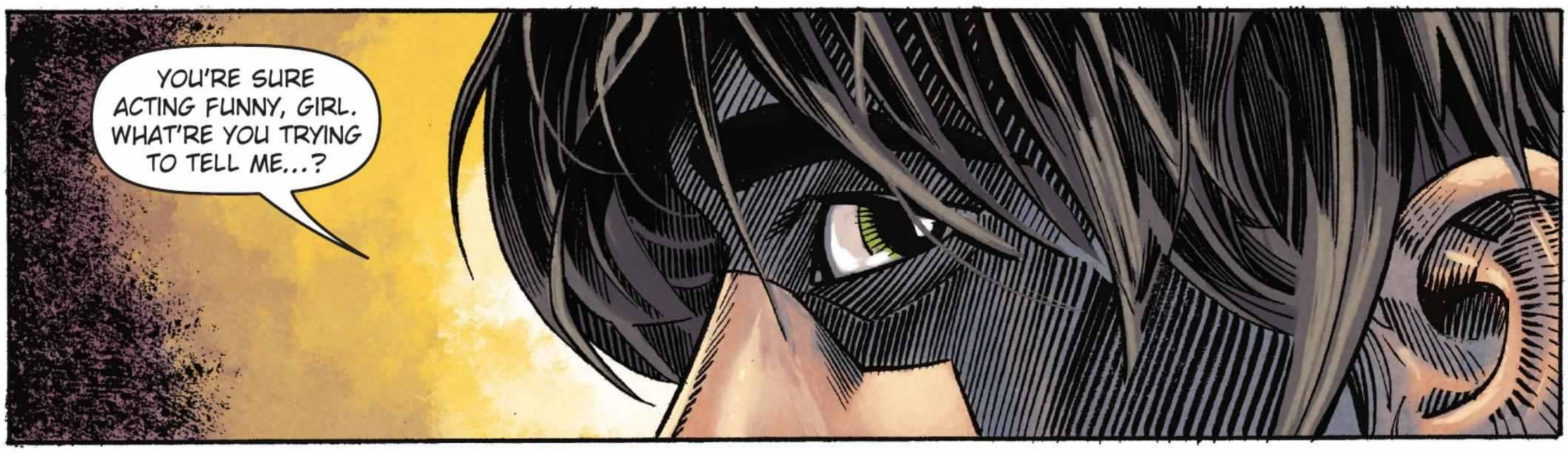

I CAN HEAR HER NOW. "SEVEN HUNDRED FEET TALL. BUILT IN THE 1930S."
"FIVE MILLION CUBIC ACRES OF WATER."
"LARGEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES."


HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?
ANNABETH IS INTO ARCHITECTURE. THIS IS ONE OF HER FAVORITE STRUCTURES. SHE'S ALWAYS SPOUTING FACTS ABOUT IT.
I WISH SHE WERE HERE TO SEE IT....

WE SHOULD CHECK IT OUT. SHE'D WANT US TO.
ORDINARILY I WOULD SAY THERE IS NO TIME, BUT PERHAPS WE CAN FIND SOME FOOD INSIDE.

PERCY? YOU COMING?
YEAH... UM...YOU GO ON AHEAD. I'LL MEET YOU AT THE SNACK BAR.

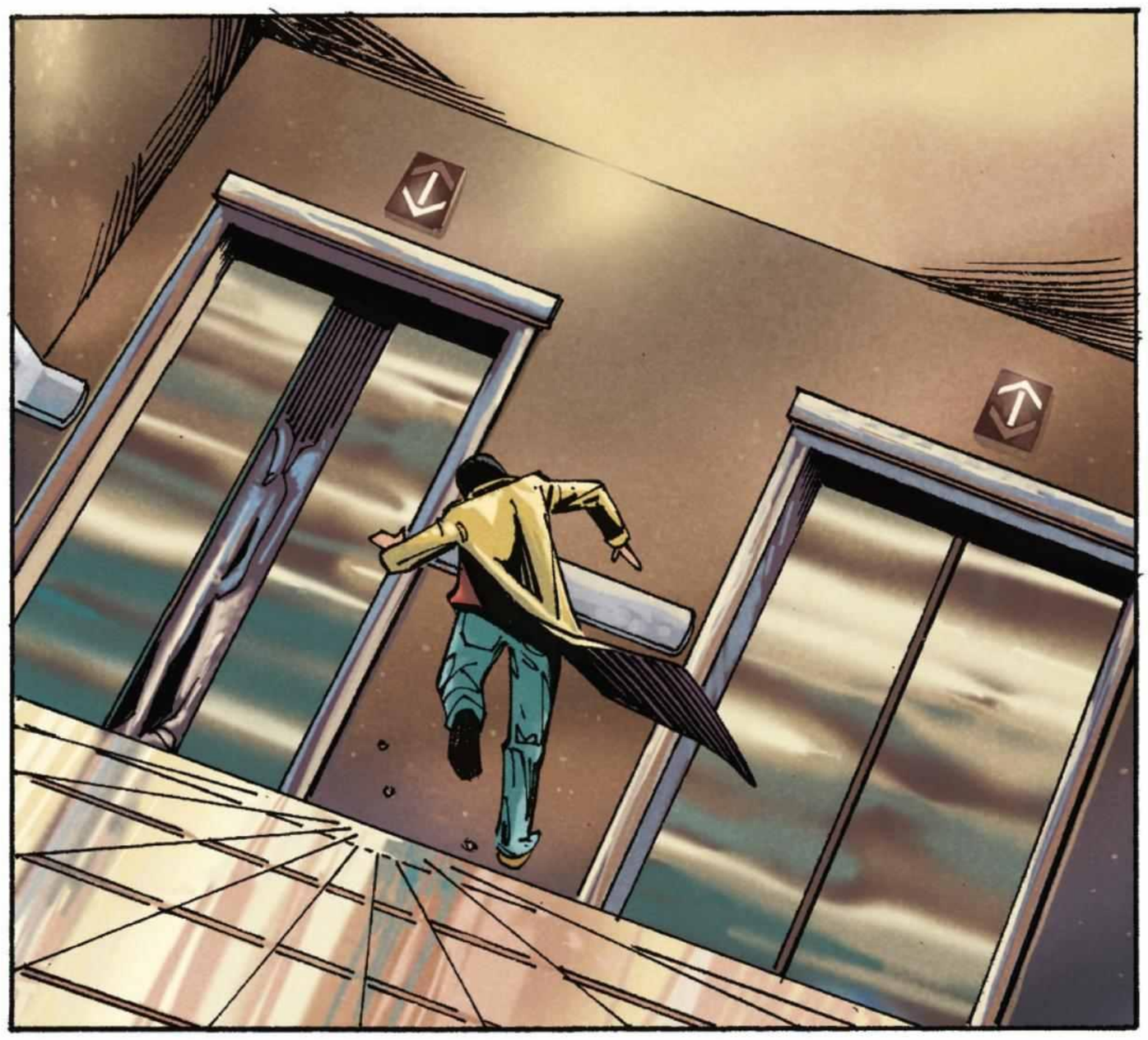

BESSIE?
Moo!
HOW'D YOU GET HERE? WE'RE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM CAMP, AND SO FAR INLAND, TOO.
Moo!
Moo!
NO, I CAN'T COME WITH YOU RIGHT NOW. I HAVE TO STAY WITH MY FRIENDS.
MOOO!
SPLISH


YOU'RE SURE ACTING FUNNY, GIRL. WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME...?

OH. RIGHT.

CHITTER
CHITTER
CHITTER

HEY!



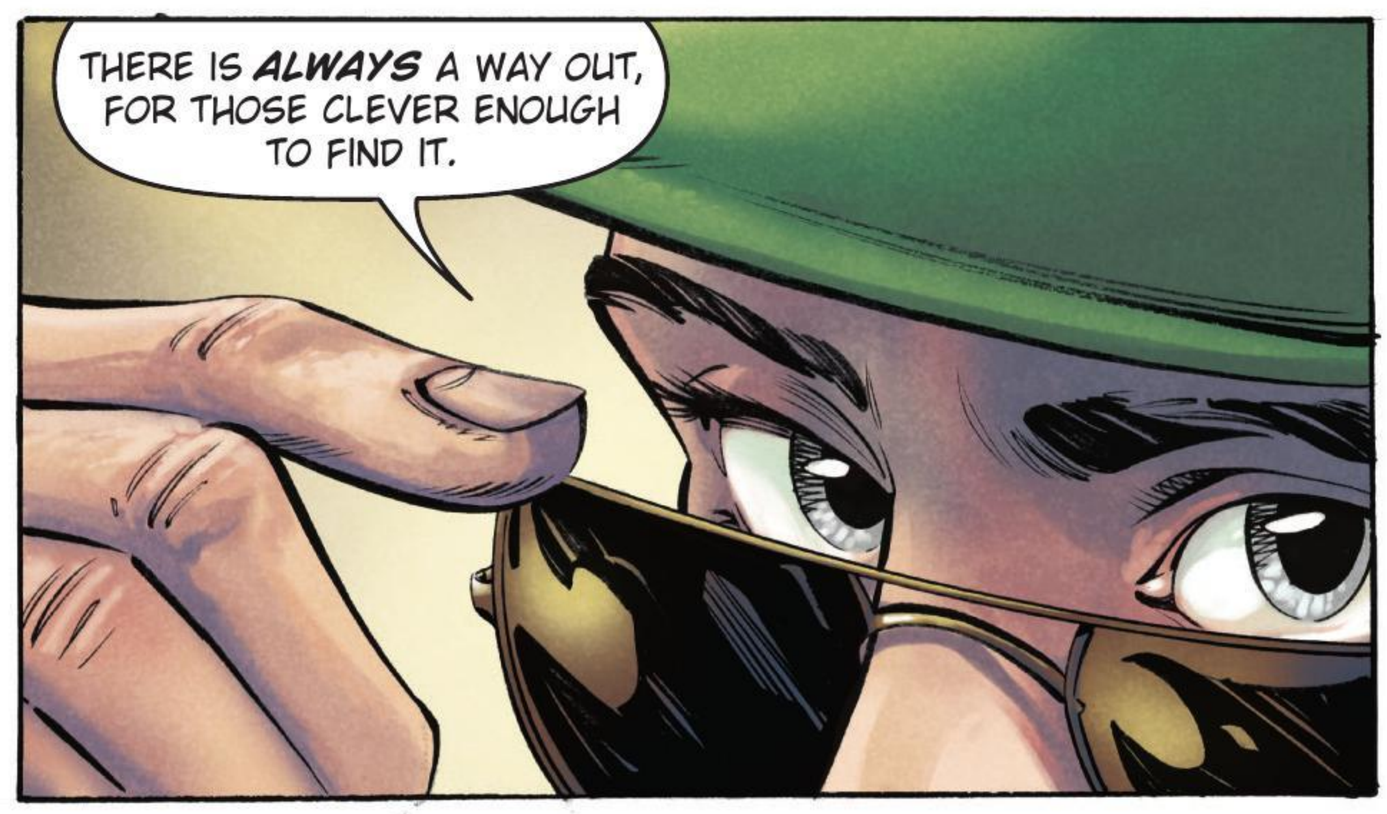
DOES THIS ELEVATOR GO TO THE SNACK BAR?
NO. IT GOES TO THE *TURBINE* LEVEL. THE SNACK BAR IS LOCATED ON THE FLOOR WE JUST LEFT.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO MY PRESENTATION, YOUNG MAN?

OH, YEAH... THE TURBINE LEVEL... RIGHT.
IS THERE, LIKE, AN EXIT DOWN THERE?
NOT UNLESS YOU'RE MADE OF *WATER*. THE ONLY EXITS ARE THE ELEVATORS.

GREAT. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, AT LEAST THERE AREN'T ANY *CHIHUAHUAS* ON THIS ELEVATOR.

EVERYONE, CONTINUE TO THE END OF THE HALL. ANOTHER PARK RANGER WILL BE CONDUCTING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOUR.

YOUNG MAN?
YEAH?


THERE IS *ALWAYS* A WAY OUT, FOR THOSE CLEVER ENOUGH TO FIND IT.

THANKS FOR THE TIP.
DING
IS THAT A SWORD?

THIS? THIS ISN'T A SWORD. IT'S A...BALLPOINT PEN.
NO, IT'S A SWORD, WEIRDO. HOW DID YOU GET IT PAST SECURITY?
AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING A LION PELT?

YOU MEAN... THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A COAT TO YOU?
UH, NO-O.

WHO ARE YOU?
RACHEL ELIZABETH DARE.
NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, OR SHOULD I CALL SECURITY?

DON'T DO THAT! I'M KIND OF... IN TROUBLE HERE.
OKAY, HOW DO I EXPLAIN THIS...?

IN THE BATHROOM!
HUH?

IT'S ABOUT TIME! DID YOU SEE THAT KID? HE HAD A SWORD, FOR PETE'S SAKE. YOU SECURITY GUYS LET A SWORD-SWINGING LUNATIC INSIDE A NATIONAL LANDMARK?!
CHITTER CHITTER CHITTER
HE RAN THAT WAY. YOU BETTER CATCH HIM BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEBODY. JEEZ!

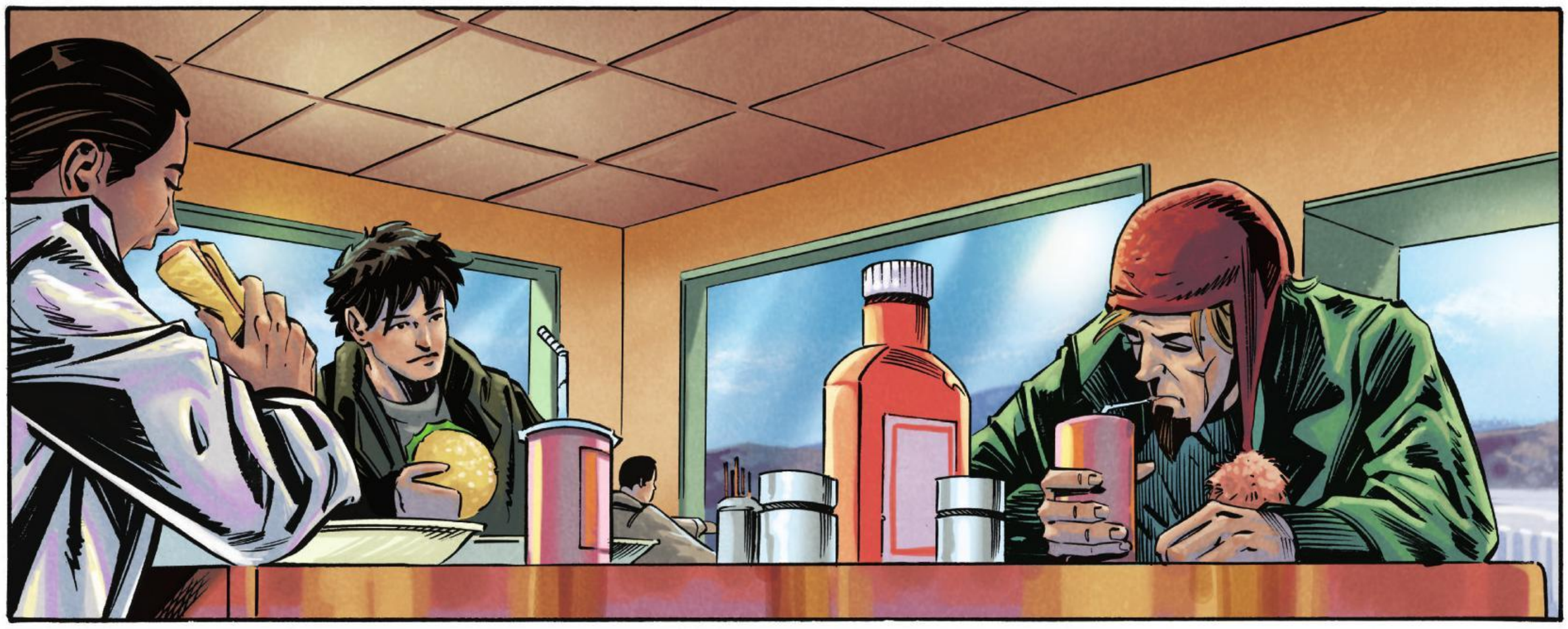
ALL CLEAR. YOU'D BETTER HURRY. THEY'LL BE BACK BEFORE TOO LONG.

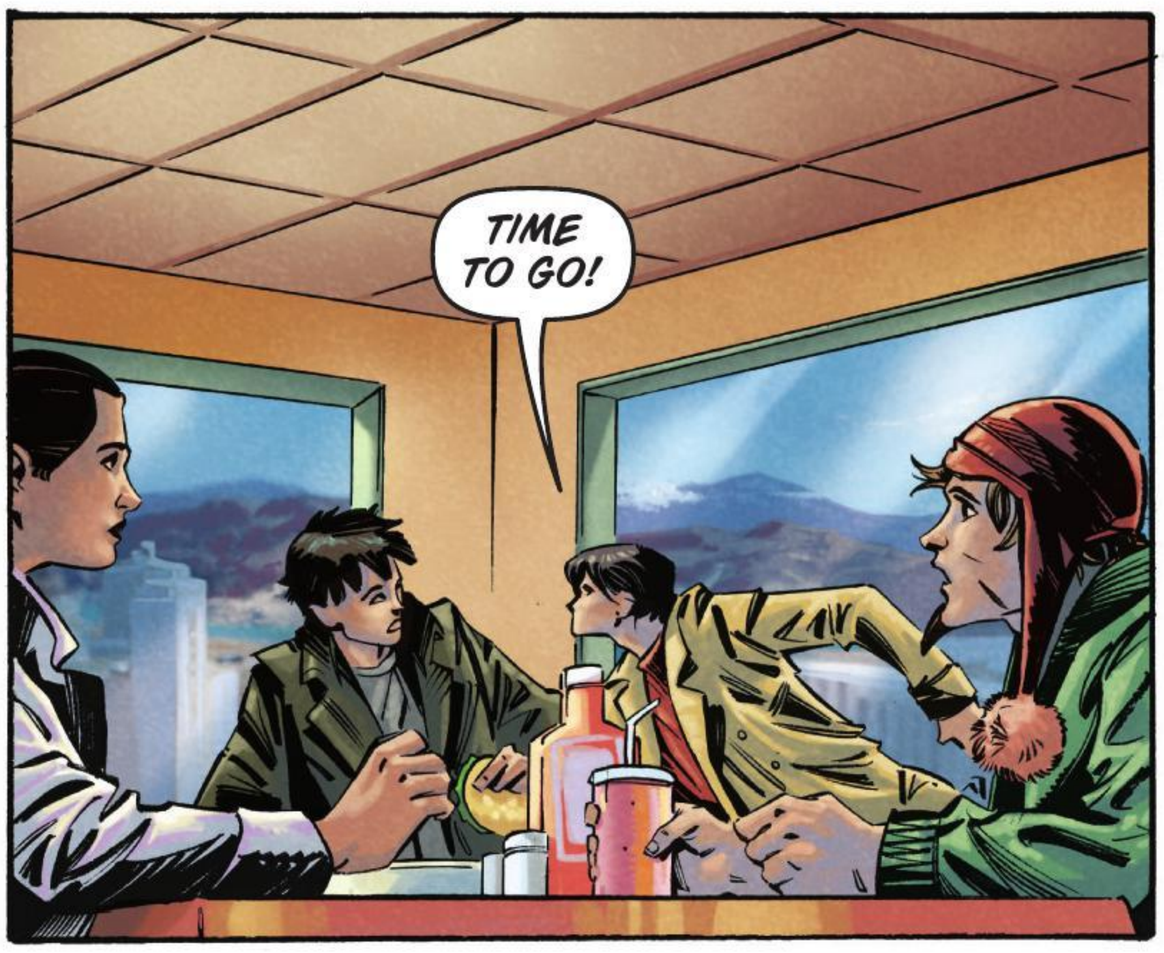
I OWE YOU ONE, RACHEL ELIZABETH DARE.
NO PROBLEM. I KIND OF HAVE A RULE: WHEN IN DOUBT, ALWAYS SIDE WITH THE PERSON THAT STILL HAS SKIN ON HIS FACE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANYWAY?

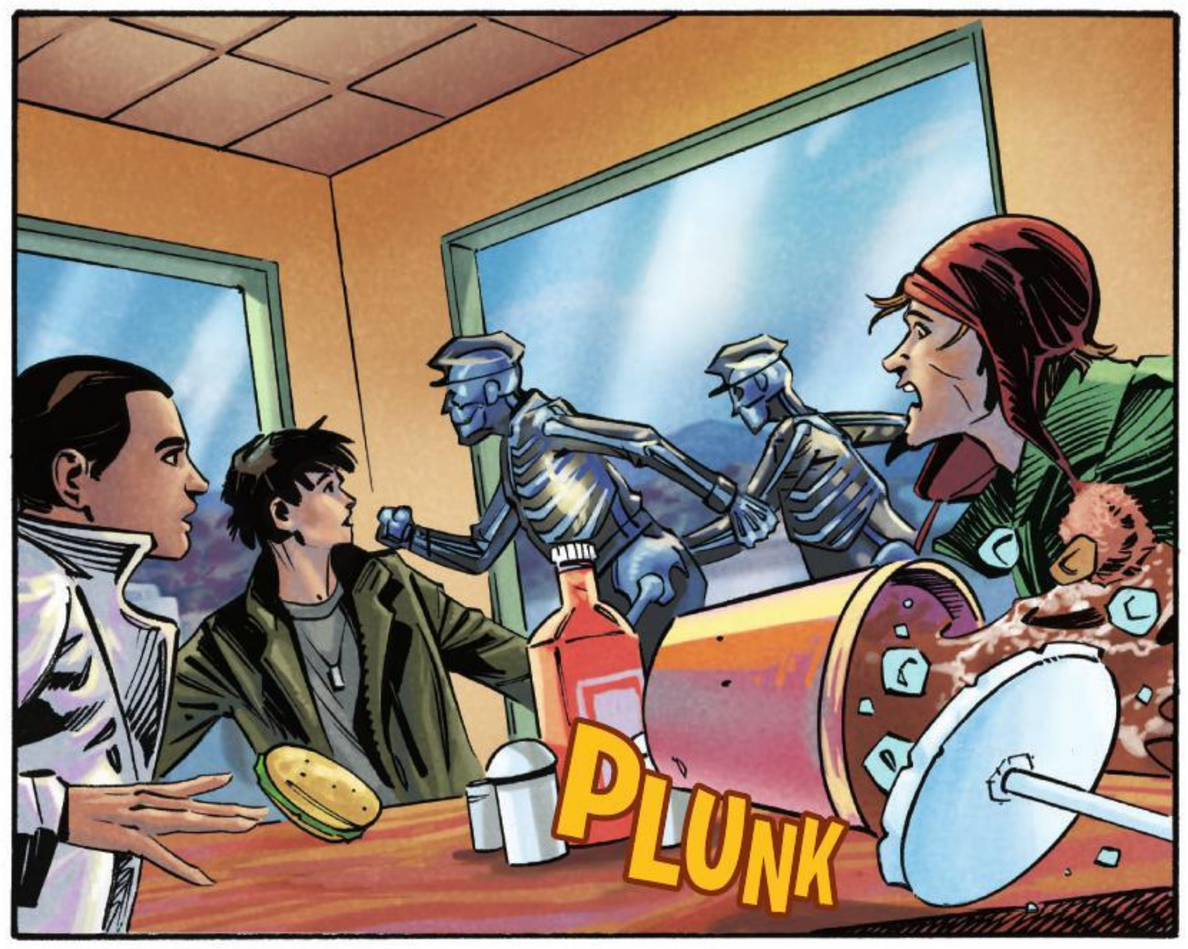
PERCY--

GOTTA GO!

WHAT KIND OF NAME IS PERCY GOTTA-GO?



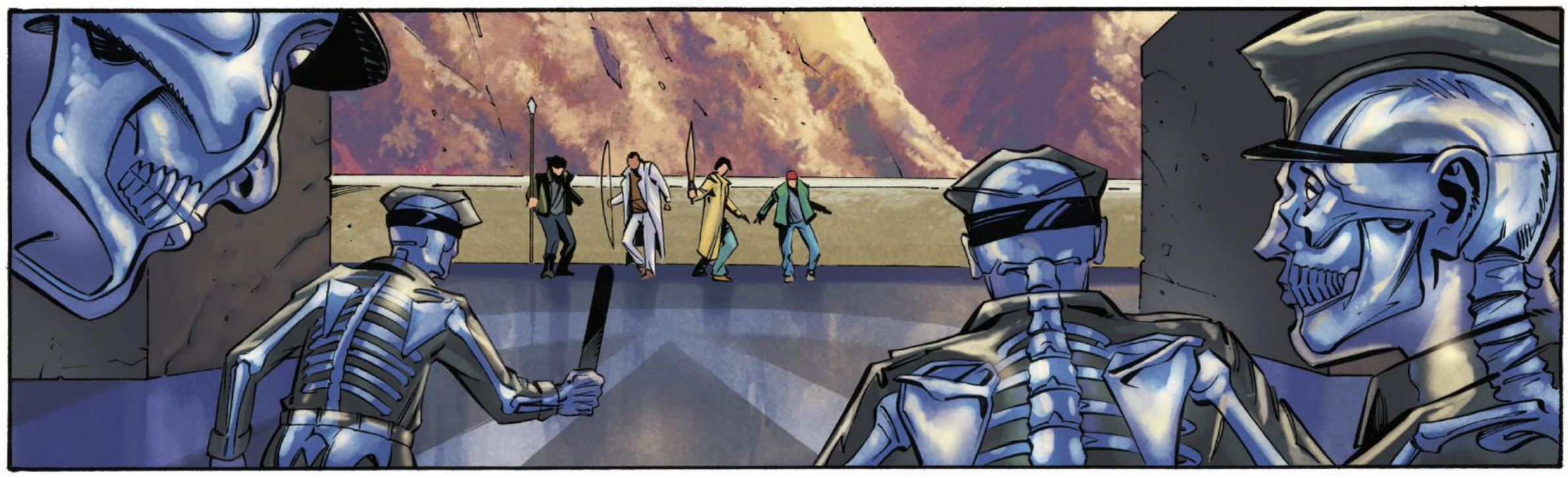

TIME TO GO!


PLUNK

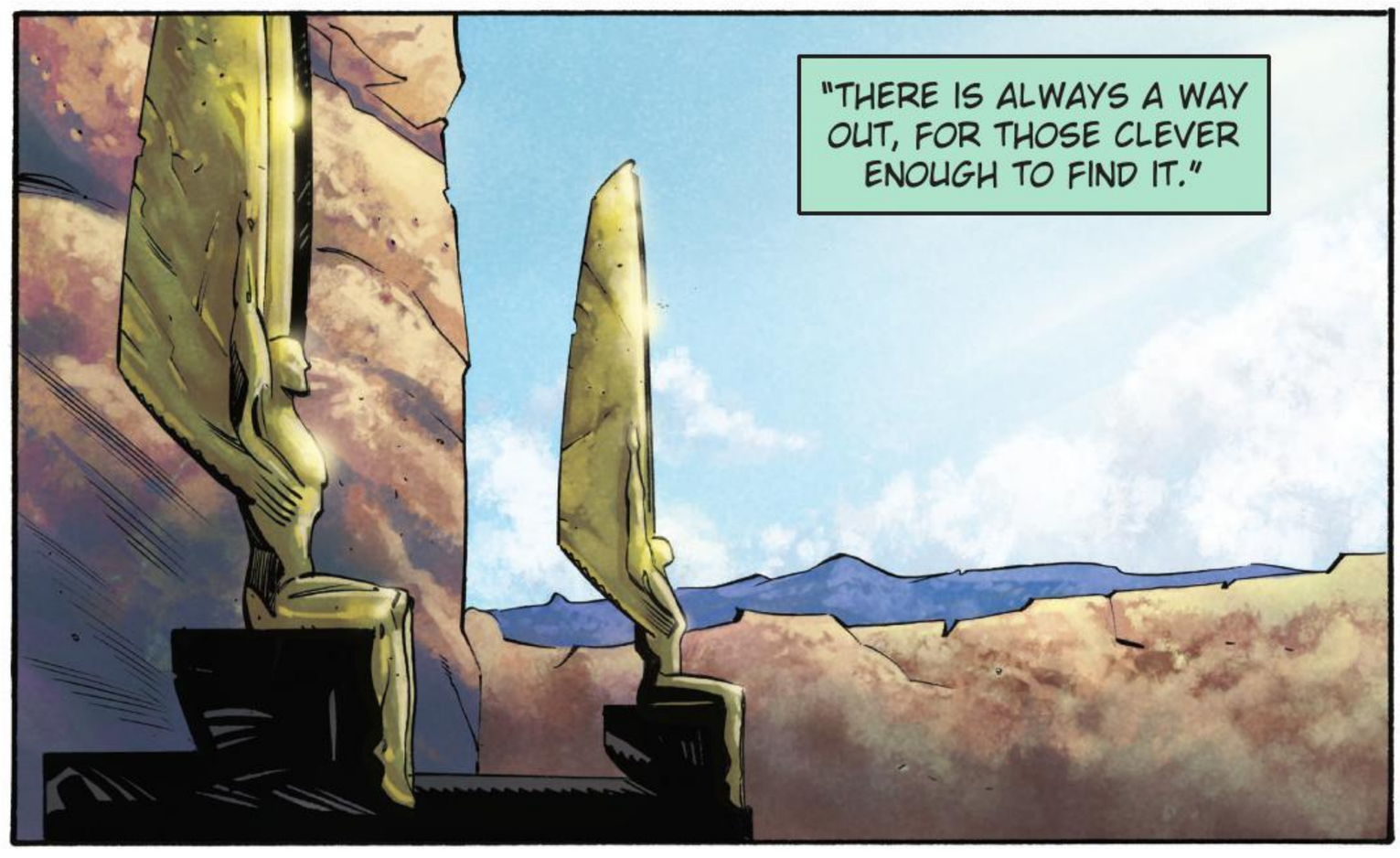
WHACK
WHUNK

THIS WAY!

THERE'S NO WAY OUT.



FOUR AGAINST FIVE.
AND *THEY* CANNOT DIE.
IT'S BEEN NICE ADVENTURING WITH YOU GUYS.


"THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT, FOR THOSE CLEVER ENOUGH TO FIND IT."

THALIA! PRAY TO YOUR DAD. ASK HIM FOR HELP.
WHY? HE NEVER ANSWERS.
JUST DO IT! I THINK IT'LL BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
SAYS WHO?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

FATHER? WE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP HERE...IF YOU DON'T MIND.

SEE? I TOLD YOU, HE NEVER ANSW--

WH--?

WHOA!

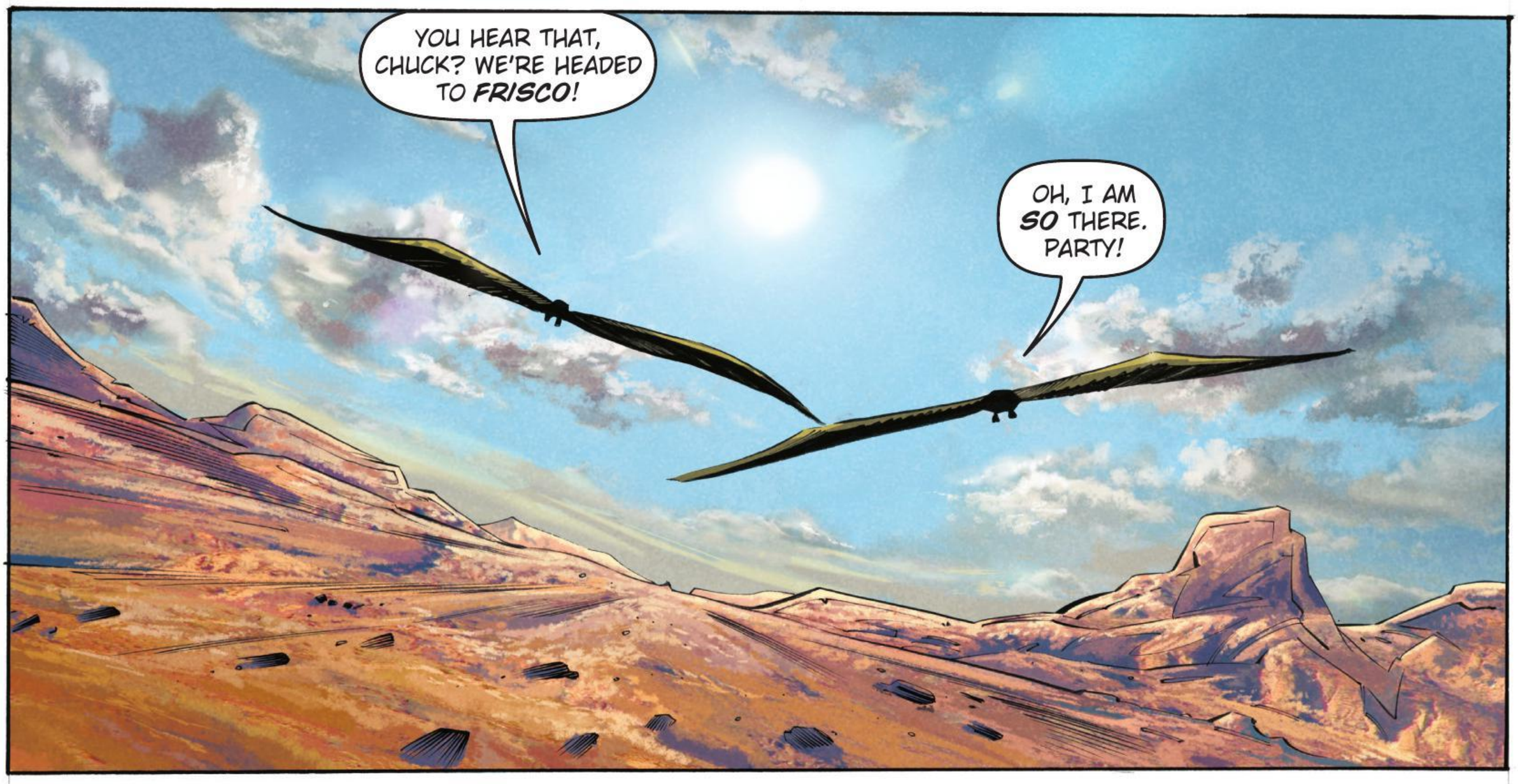
AAAIGH!

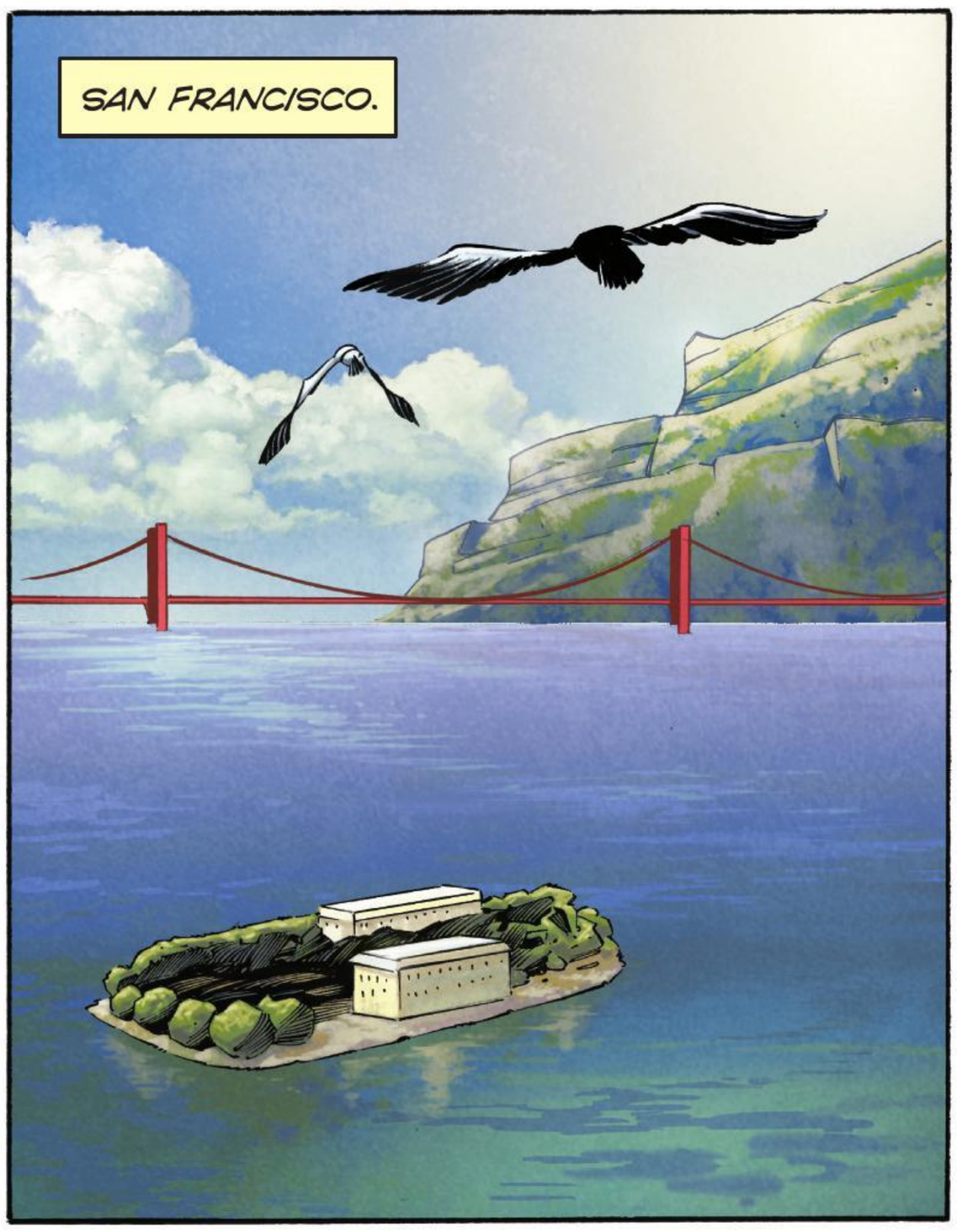
MAN, IT FEELS GOOD TO STRETCH MY WINGS!
A-ARE WE VERY H-HIGH?
KIND OF. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, OKAY? I DON'T LIKE TO FLY!
BUT YOUR DAD IS, LIKE, LORD OF THE SKY.

JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE! PLEASE?
DON'T WORRY, YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME.

SO, WHERE TO?
SAN FRANCISCO. THE WATERFRONT.

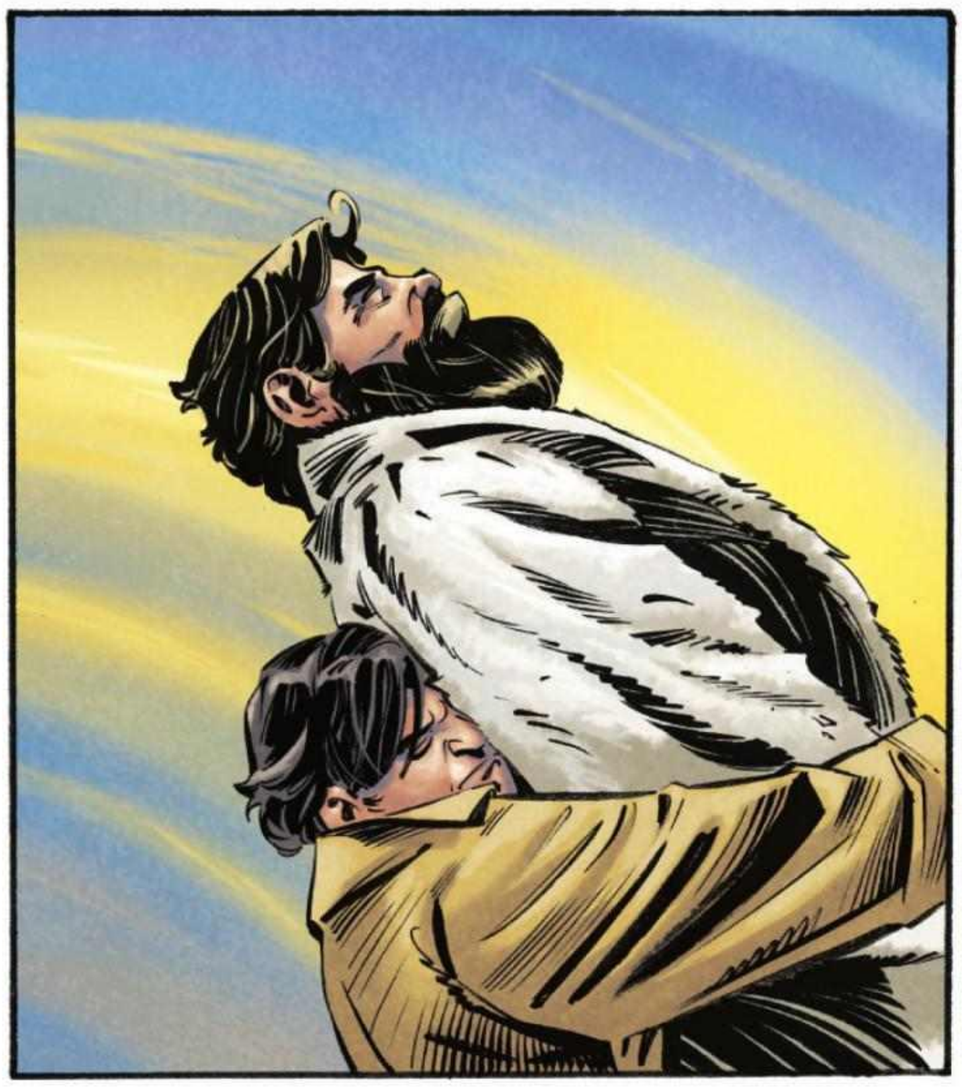

YOU HEAR THAT, CHUCK? WE'RE HEADED TO FRISCO!
OH, I AM SO THERE. PARTY!

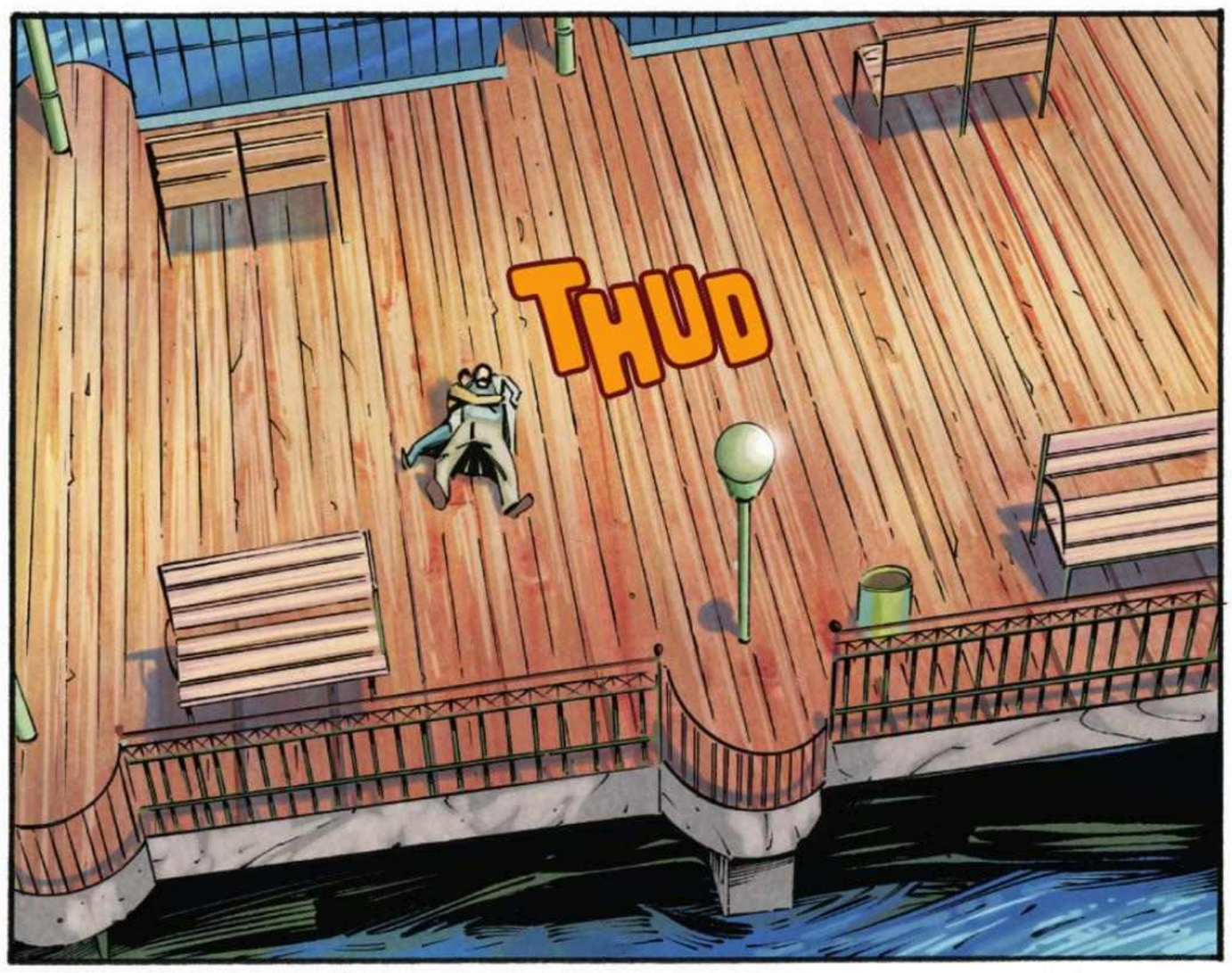

SAN FRANCISCO.

APOLLO SAID YOU SHOULD TALK TO NEREUS. YOU WILL FIND HIM AT THE END OF THE PIER.
YOU MEAN THE HOMELESS GUY?
HE USES DISGUISES SO HE CAN SUN HIMSELF WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED.
YOU MUST CAPTURE HIM FIRST. THEN HE WILL ANSWER THY QUESTIONS.

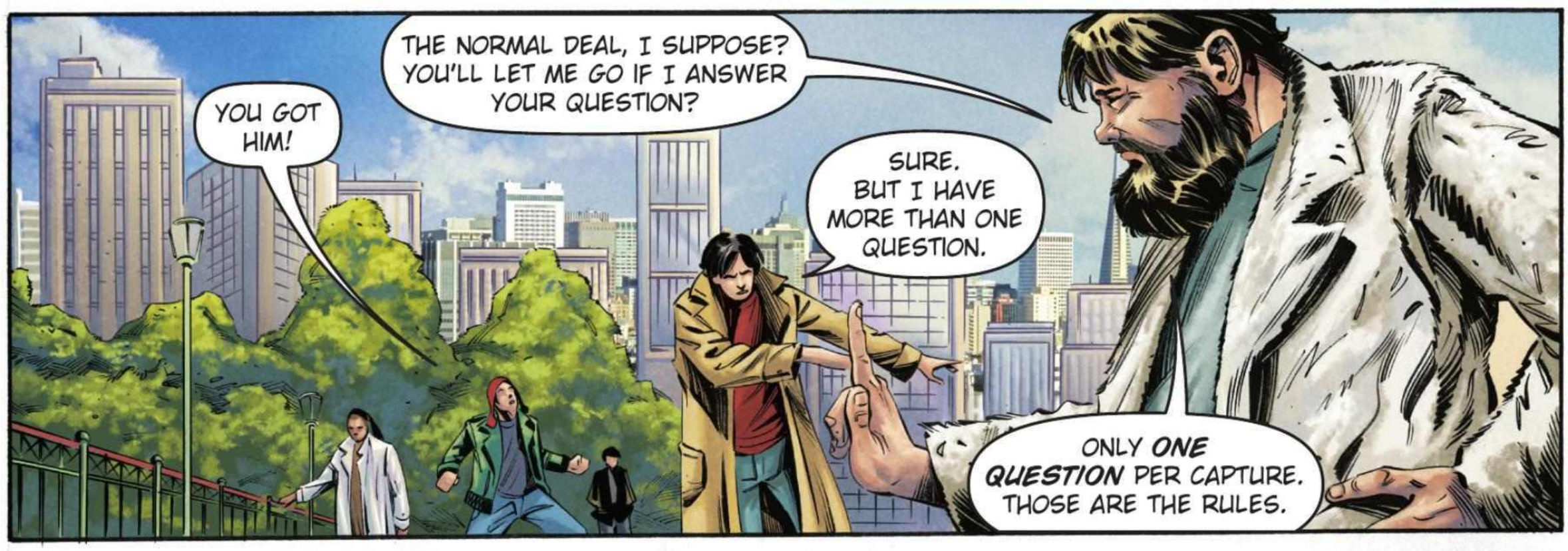
GOTCHA!
HELP!
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, I SWEAR!

JUST HOLD STILL, WILL YOU? I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY. I'M A HALF-BLOOD, AND I NEED ANSWERS!
A HERO? BLAST! WHY DOES YOUR SORT ALWAYS PICK ON ME?




THUD

DO YOU YIELD?
-groan- VERY WELL.

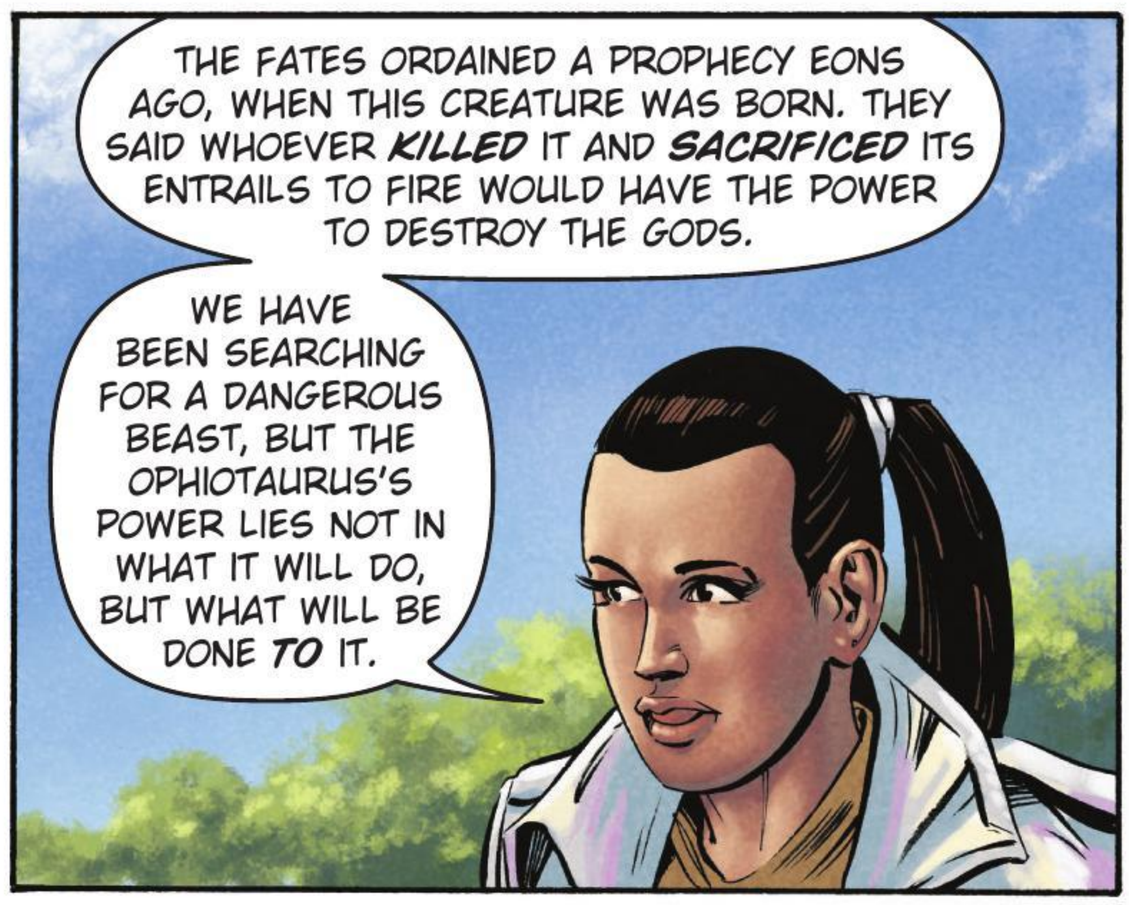

YOU GOT HIM!
THE NORMAL DEAL, I SUPPOSE? YOU'LL LET ME GO IF I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?
SURE. BUT I HAVE MORE THAN ONE QUESTION.
ONLY ONE QUESTION PER CAPTURE. THOSE ARE THE RULES.

BUT THERE'S ANNABETH, AND ARTEMIS, AND THE MYSTERY MONSTER...
ASK ABOUT THE BEAST. LADY ARTEMIS WOULD WISH FOR US TO SAVE OLYMPUS.
YEAH, ANNABETH WOULD, TOO.

-sigh-
TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THIS TERRIBLE MONSTER THAT COULD BRING AN END TO THE GODS.

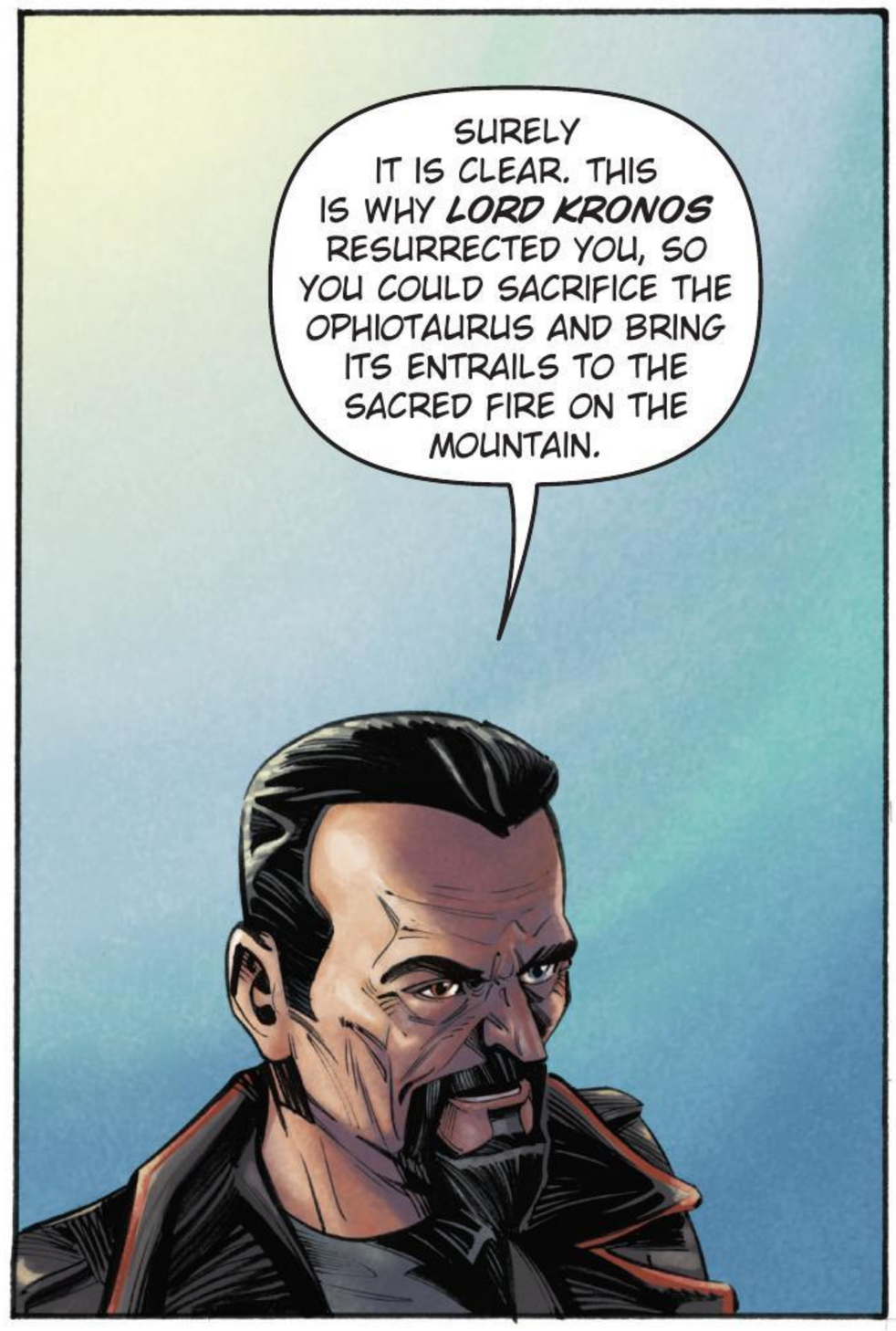
THAT'S TOO EASY. -scoff- JUST LOOK DOWN.
POP!
BESSIE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
SPLISH
MOO!

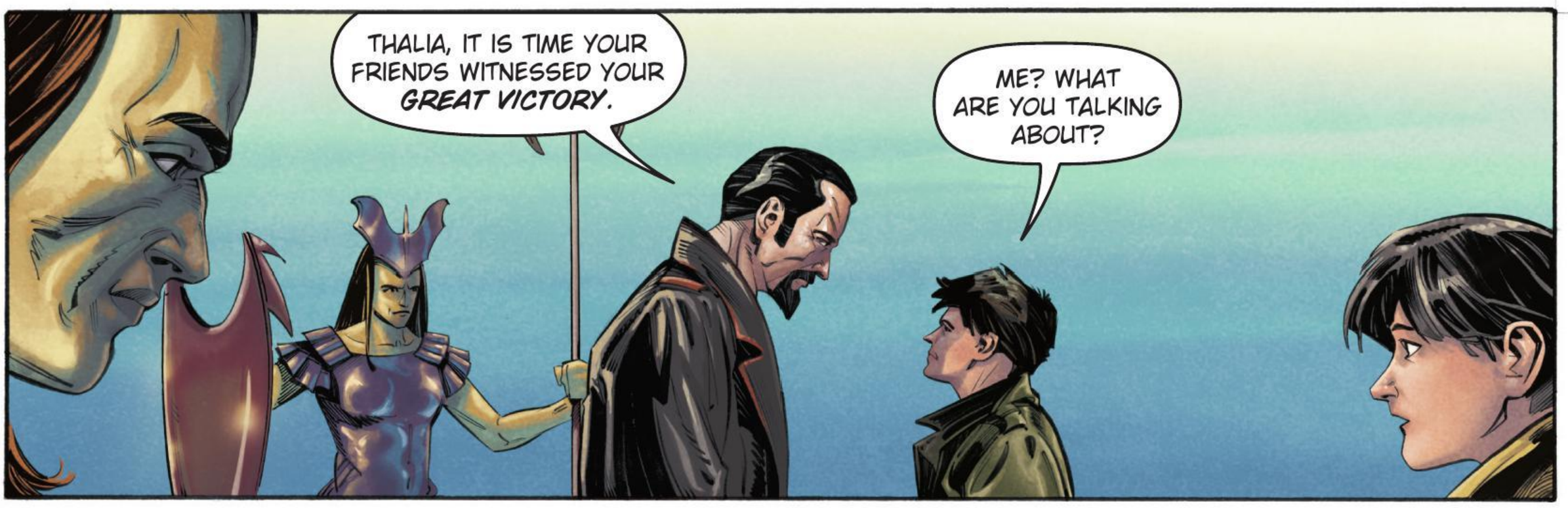
HE SAYS HIS NAME ISN'T BESSIE. IT'S OPHIOTAURUS.
SHE'S A HE? AND WHAT'S AN OPHIO-THINGIE?
IT MEANS "SERPENT-BULL."
I KNOW THIS STORY. IT'S AN OLD TALE MY FATHER TOLD ME....


THE FATES ORDAINED A PROPHECY EONS AGO, WHEN THIS CREATURE WAS BORN. THEY SAID WHOEVER KILLED IT AND SACRIFICED ITS ENTRAILS TO FIRE WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY THE GODS.
WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A DANGEROUS BEAST, BUT THE OPHIOTAURUS'S POWER LIES NOT IN WHAT IT WILL DO, BUT WHAT WILL BE DONE TO IT.

THE POWER TO OVERTHROW OLYMPUS... THAT'S HUGE.
YES, IT IS, MY DEAR--

--AND YOU SHALL UNLEASH IT.


SURELY IT IS CLEAR. THIS IS WHY LORD KRONOS RESURRECTED YOU, SO YOU COULD SACRIFICE THE OPHIOTAURUS AND BRING ITS ENTRAILS TO THE SACRED FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN.

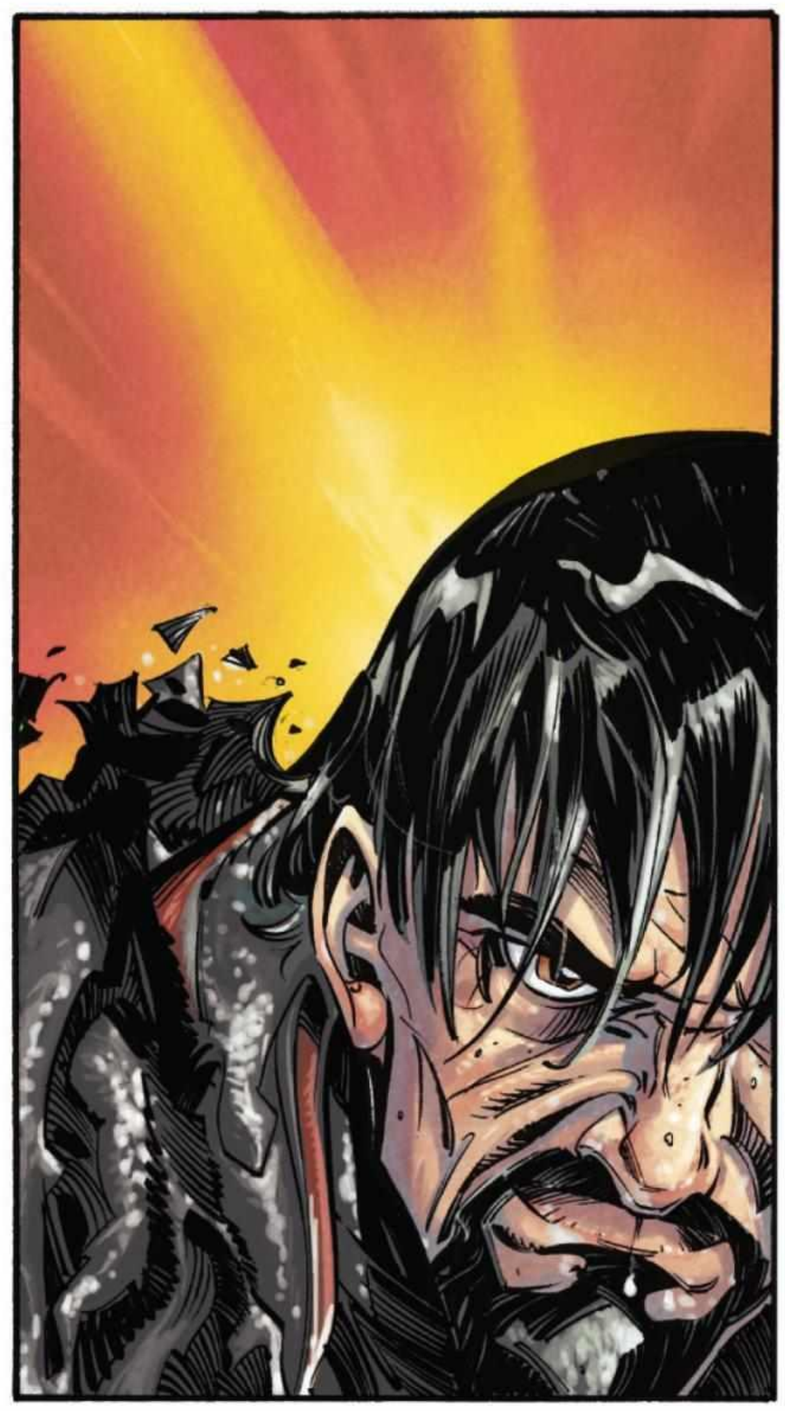

THALIA, IT IS TIME YOUR FRIENDS WITNESSED YOUR GREAT VICTORY.
ME? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU KNOW IT IS THE RIGHT CHOICE. YOUR FRIEND, LUKE, RECOGNIZED IT, TOO.
YOUR FATHER ABANDONED YOU, THALIA. HE CARES NOTHING FOR YOU.

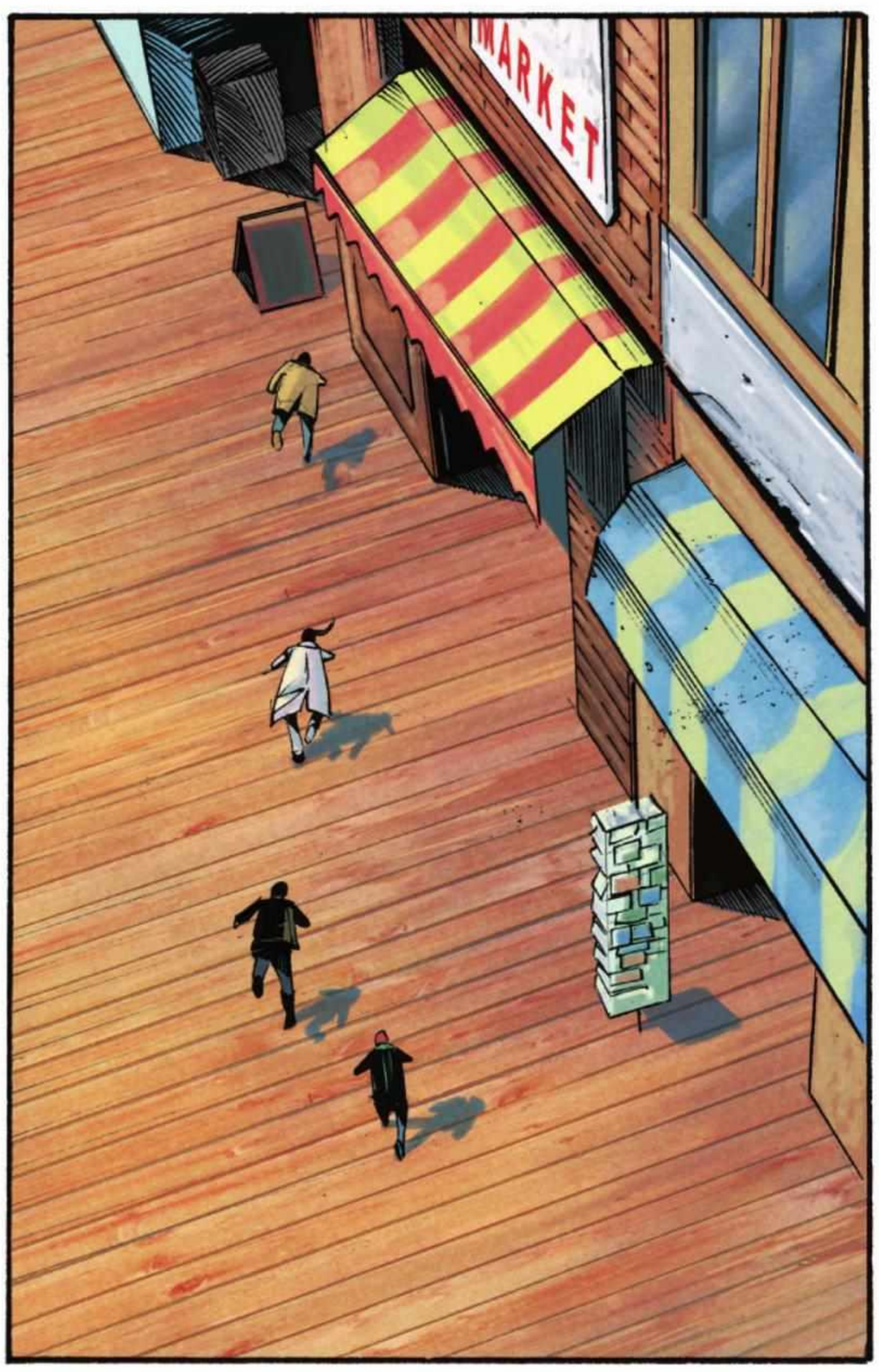
CRUSH THE OLYMPIANS UNDERFOOT AS THEY DESERVE. SLAY THE BEAST AND BECOME MORE POWERFUL THAN THE GODS!
I...I DON'T...

NO!

SPLOOSH!



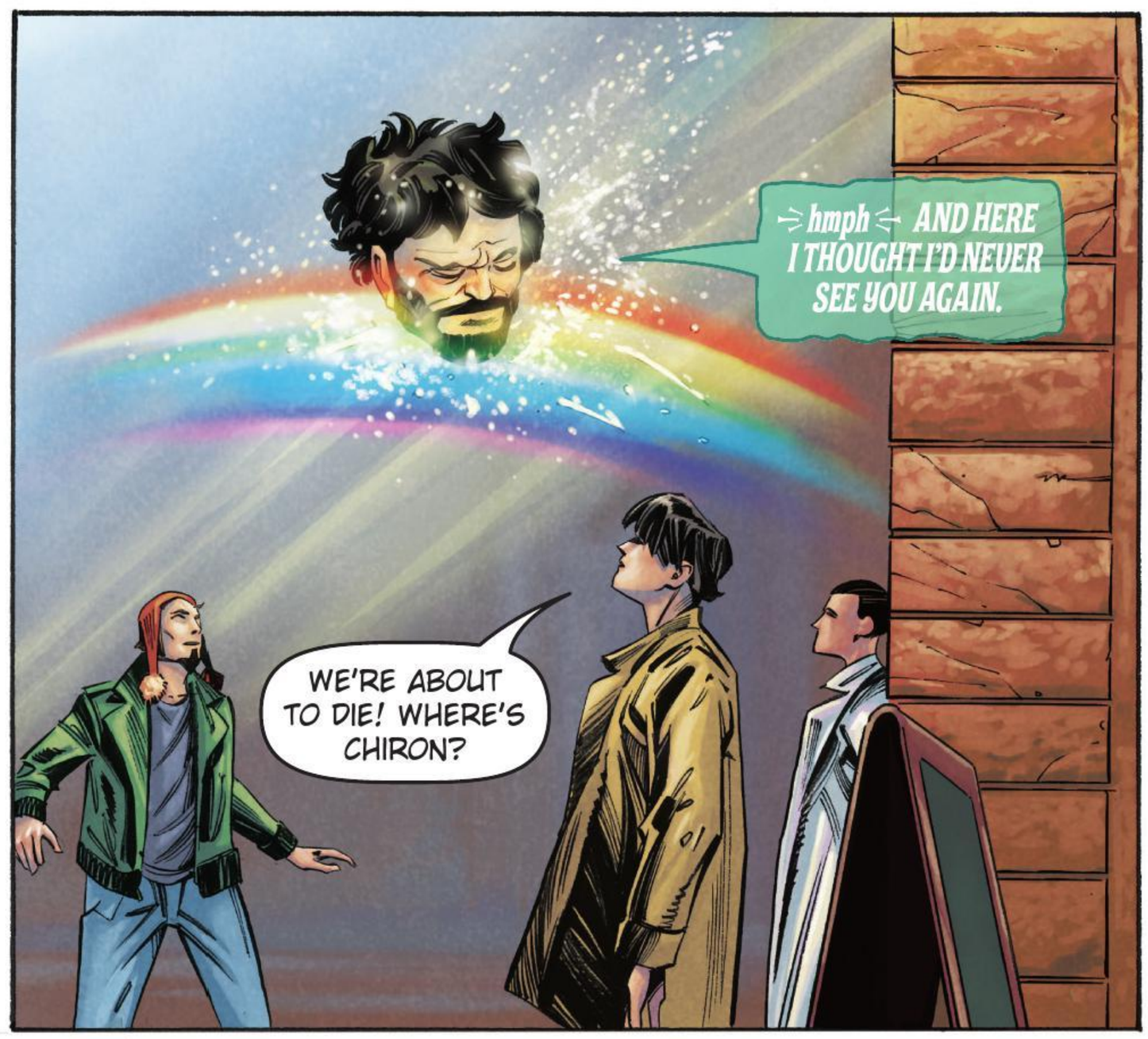
AFTER THEM!


MARKET

WE HAVE TO GET WORD TO CAMP! THEY NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

GOOD IDEA.
CLINK

COLLECT CALL! CAMP HALF-BLOOD!
PLEASE HOLD.


hmph AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
WE'RE ABOUT TO DIE! WHERE'S CHIRON?

ABOUT TO DIE? HOW AMUSING. I'M AFRAID CHIRON ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW. SHALL I TAKE A MESSAGE?
THE MANTICORE IS IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND SO IS THE OPHIOTAURUS! THORN IS TRYING TO GET THALIA TO SACRIFICE IT.
YOU HAVE TO HELP!

WELL, NOW, I HAVEN'T HEARD THE MAGIC WORD.

THE WHAT?! YOU--

HELP US, MR. D. PLEASE.

SPARE THE DAUGHTER OF ZEUS. SHE WILL JOIN US SOON ENOUGH.
KILL THE OTHERS.

FOOMP
FOOMP

NO! NOOOO!

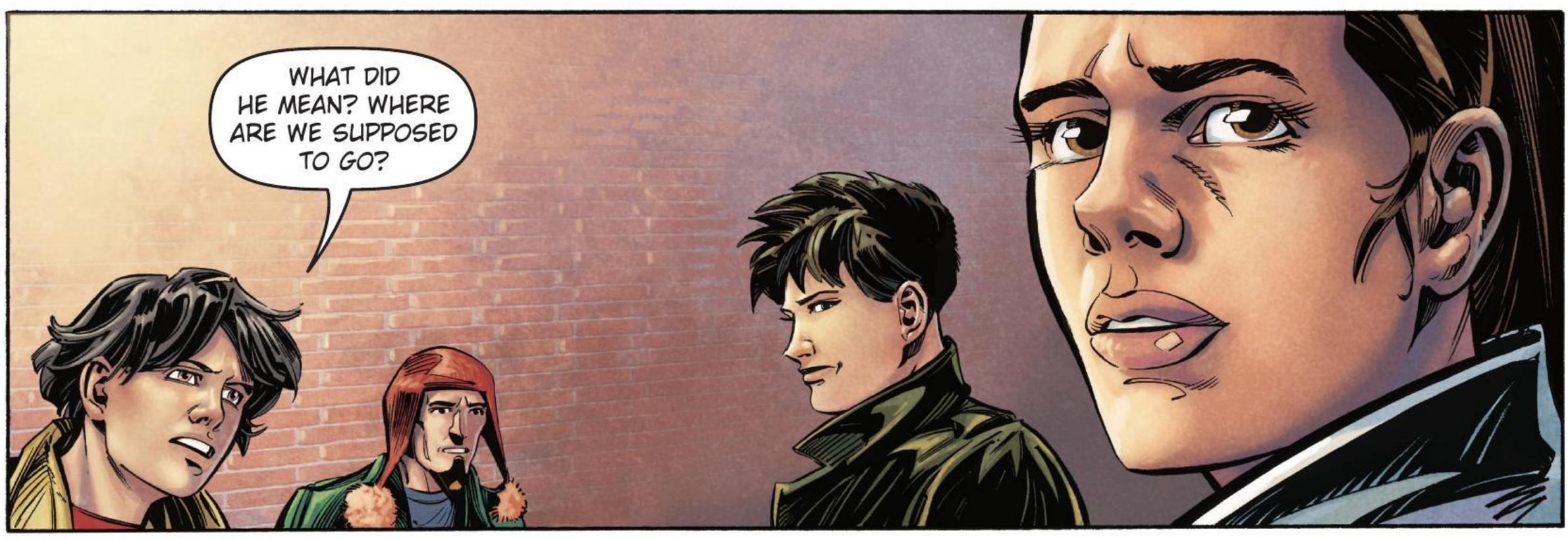
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

FOOMP

YOU SAVED US. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY SAVED US.
SUCH GRATITUDE. HOW TOUCHING.
I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON, THERESA. POWER ISN'T EASY TO RESIST, IS IT, GIRL?

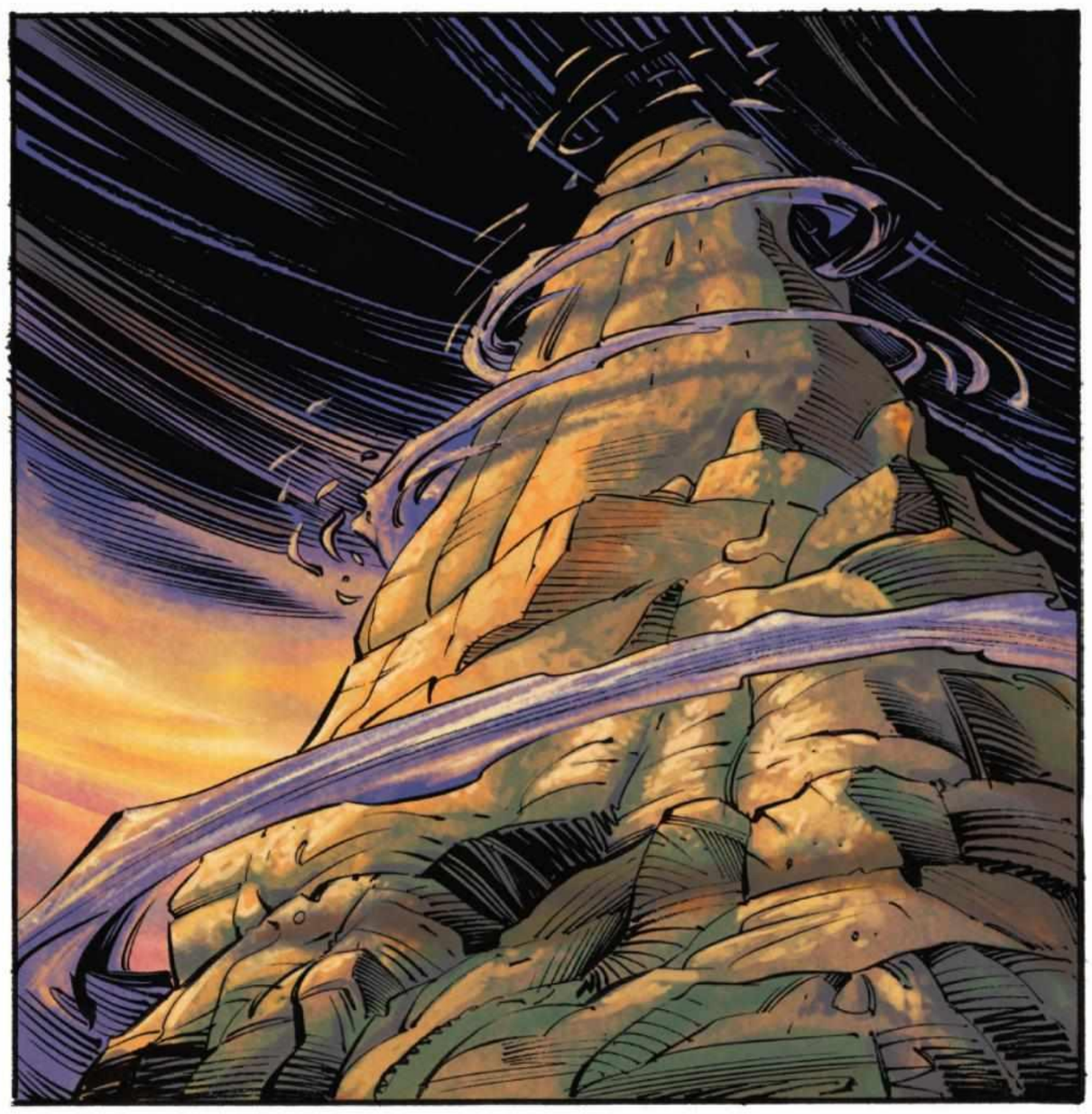
NOW RUN ALONG, ALL OF YOU. I'VE BOUGHT YOU A FEW HOURS AT MOST.
BUT WHERE DO WE GO?
OH, I THINK THE HUNTRESS KNOWS. YOU MUST ENTER AT SUNSET, OR ALL WILL BE LOST.

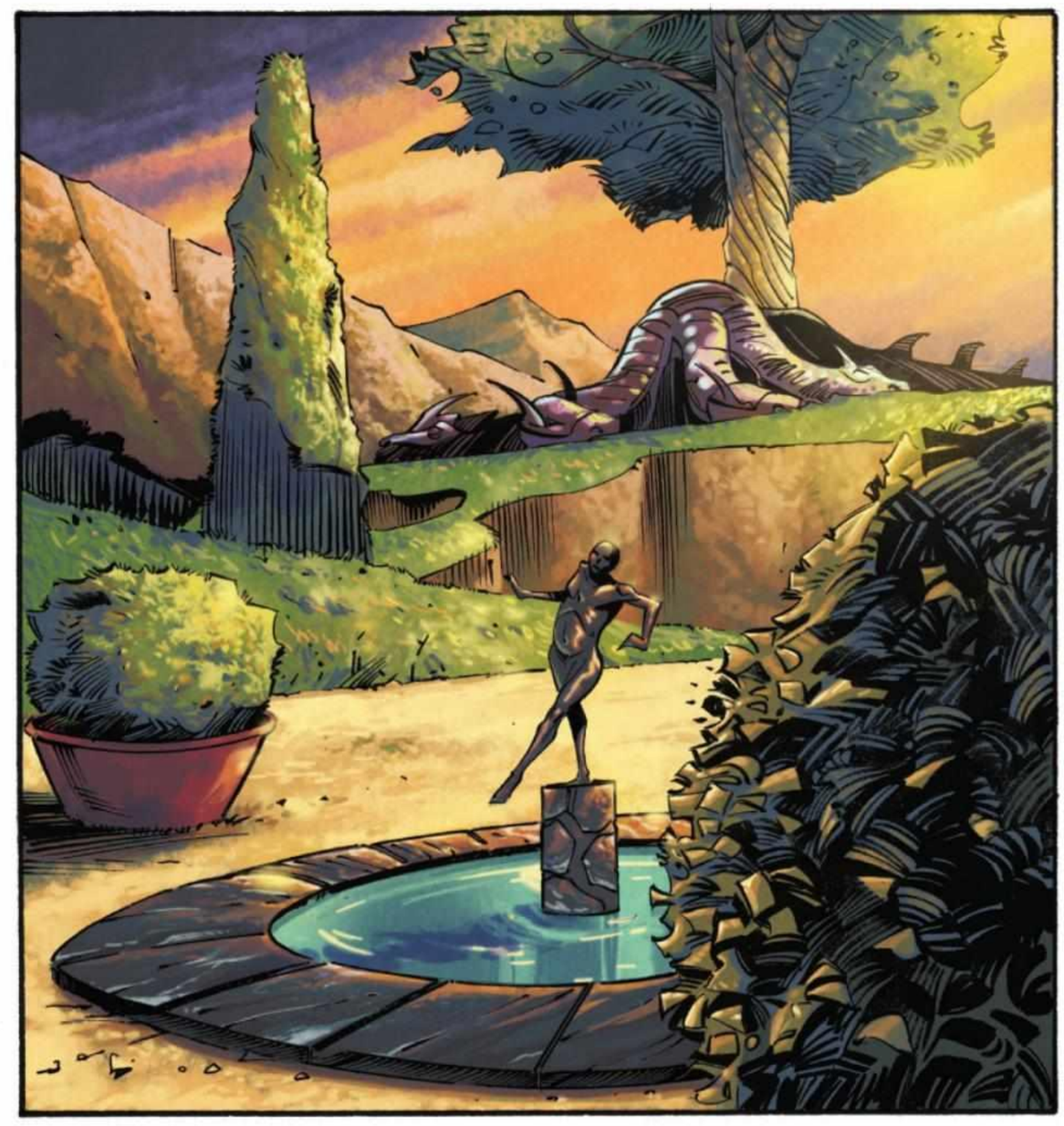
GOOD-BYE. I HAVE A PIZZA WAITING.


WHAT DID HE MEAN? WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO?

THE GARDEN OF MY SISTERS.

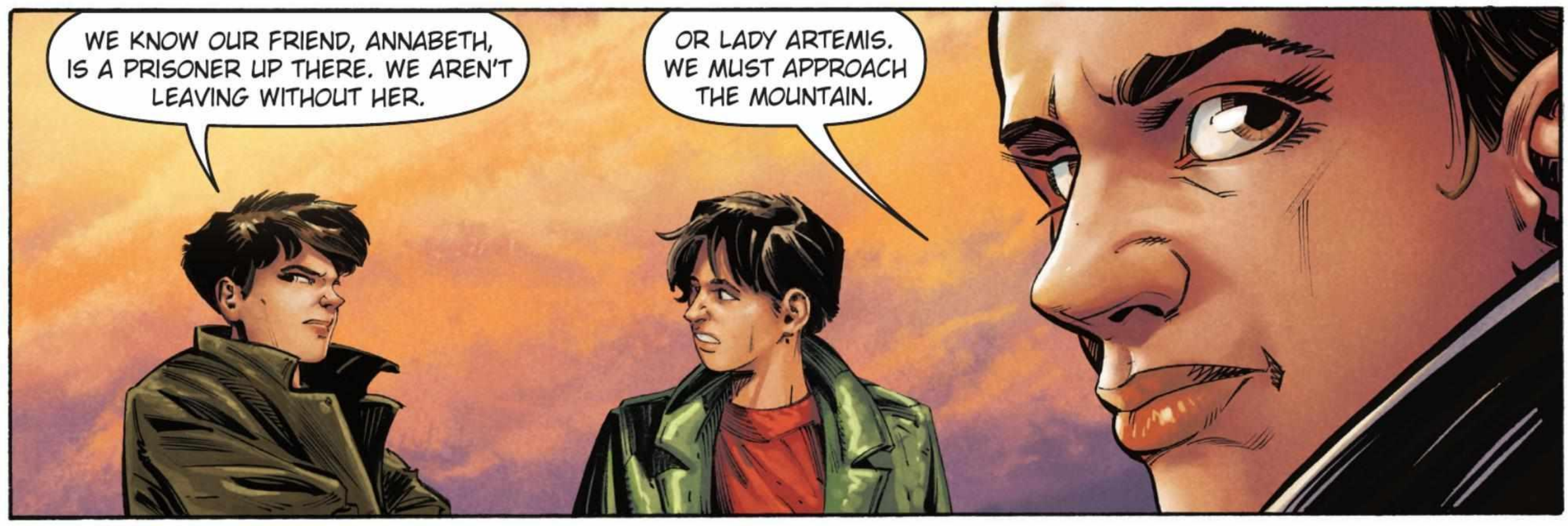
I MUST GO HOME.



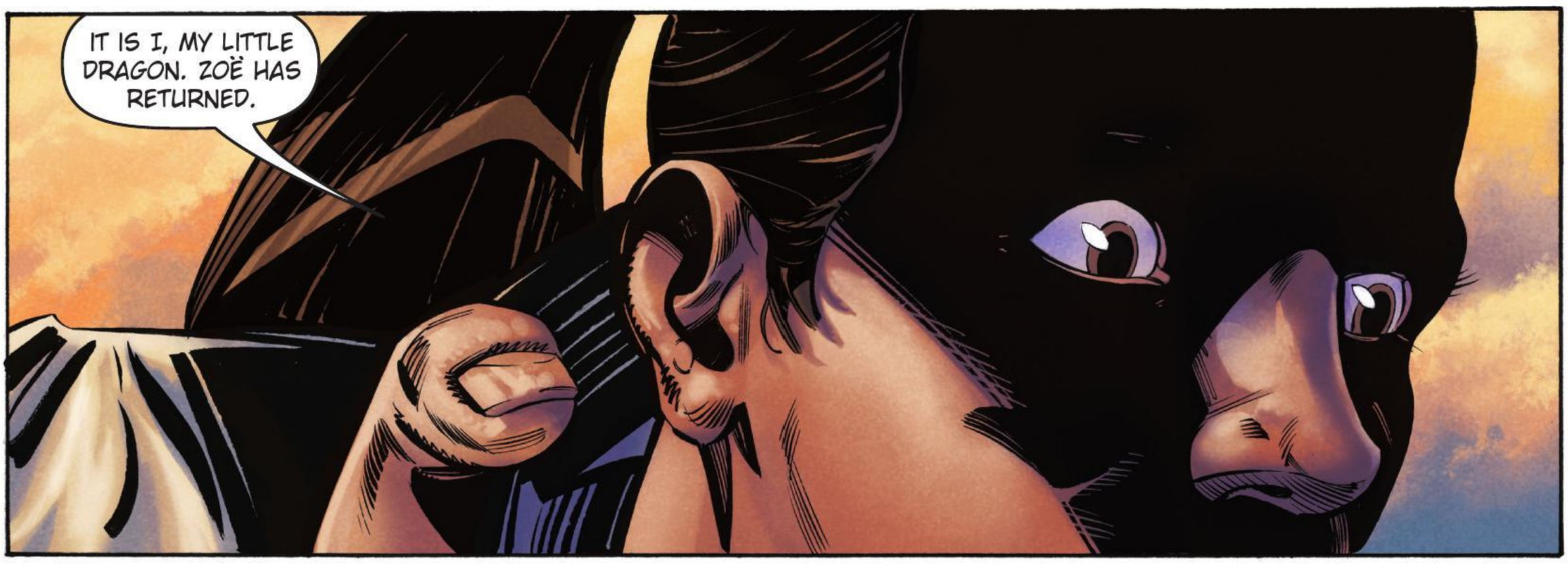


I HOPE GROVER MAKES IT BACK TO CAMP WITH THE OPHIOTAURUS. HE ISN'T EXACTLY THE BEST SWIMMER.
I PRAYED TO MY DAD FOR SAFE PASSAGE, AND EVEN OFFERED UP THE NEMEAN LION'S PELT AS TRADE.
NOT MUCH ELSE WE CAN DO....
DUSK IS AT HAND. TIME GROWS SHORT.

HELLO, SISTERS. IT HAS BEEN A VERY LONG TIME.
WE DO NOT SEE ANY SISTER. WE SEE TWO HALF-BLOODS AND A HUNTER. ALL OF WHOM SHALL SOON DIE.
GO BACK.

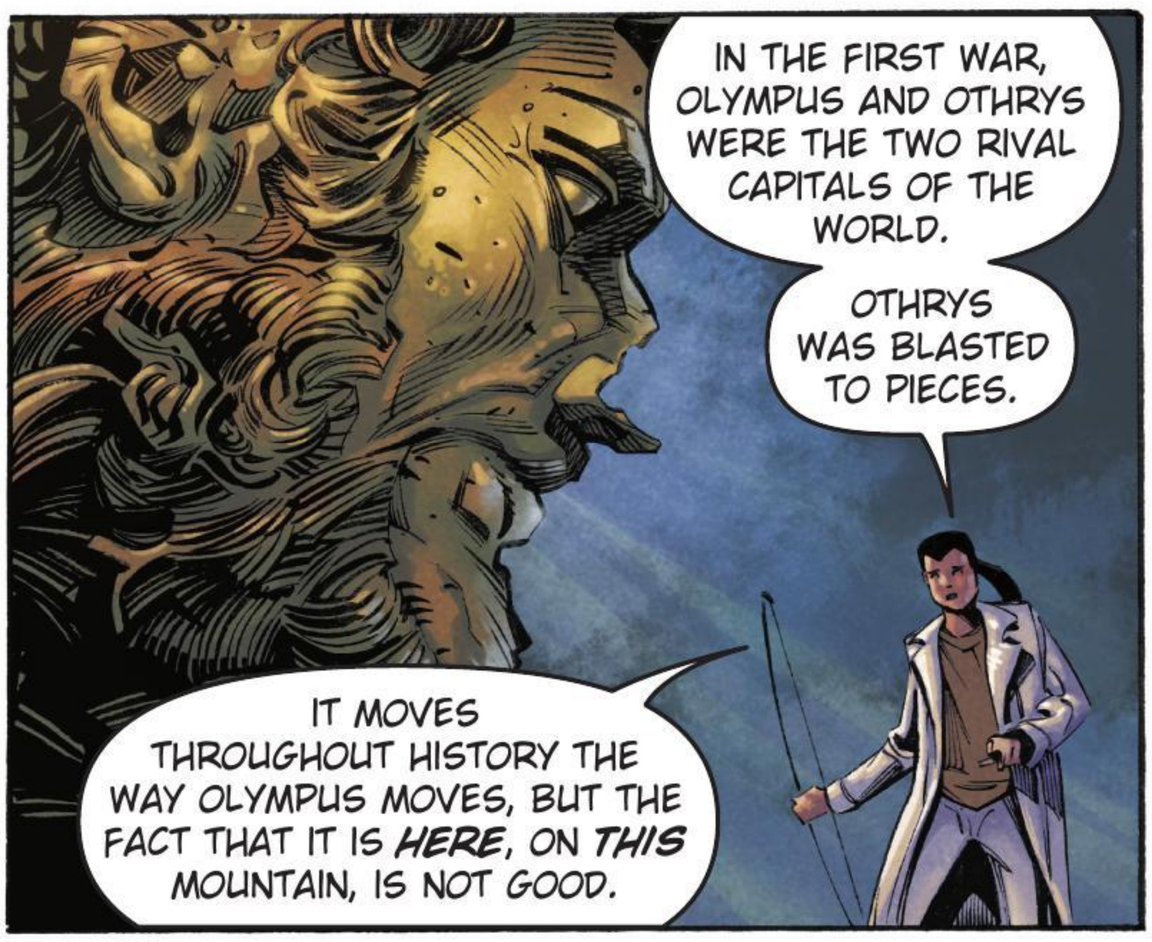

WE KNOW OUR FRIEND, ANNABETH, IS A PRISONER UP THERE. WE AREN'T LEAVING WITHOUT HER.
OR LADY ARTEMIS. WE MUST APPROACH THE MOUNTAIN.

HISS
HISS
HISS
SKIRT AROUND THE EDGES OF THE GARDEN. THE DRAGON IS TRAINED TO PROTECT THE *APPLES OF IMMORTALITY*. HE SHOULD IGNORE THEE, SO LONG AS HE THINKS I AM THE BIGGER THREAT.



I USED TO FEED THEE BY HAND. I KNOW THOU REMEMBERS THINE OLD CARETAKER....

THE RUINS OF MOUNT OTHRYS...
YES. THEY WERE NOT HERE BEFORE. THIS IS BAD.

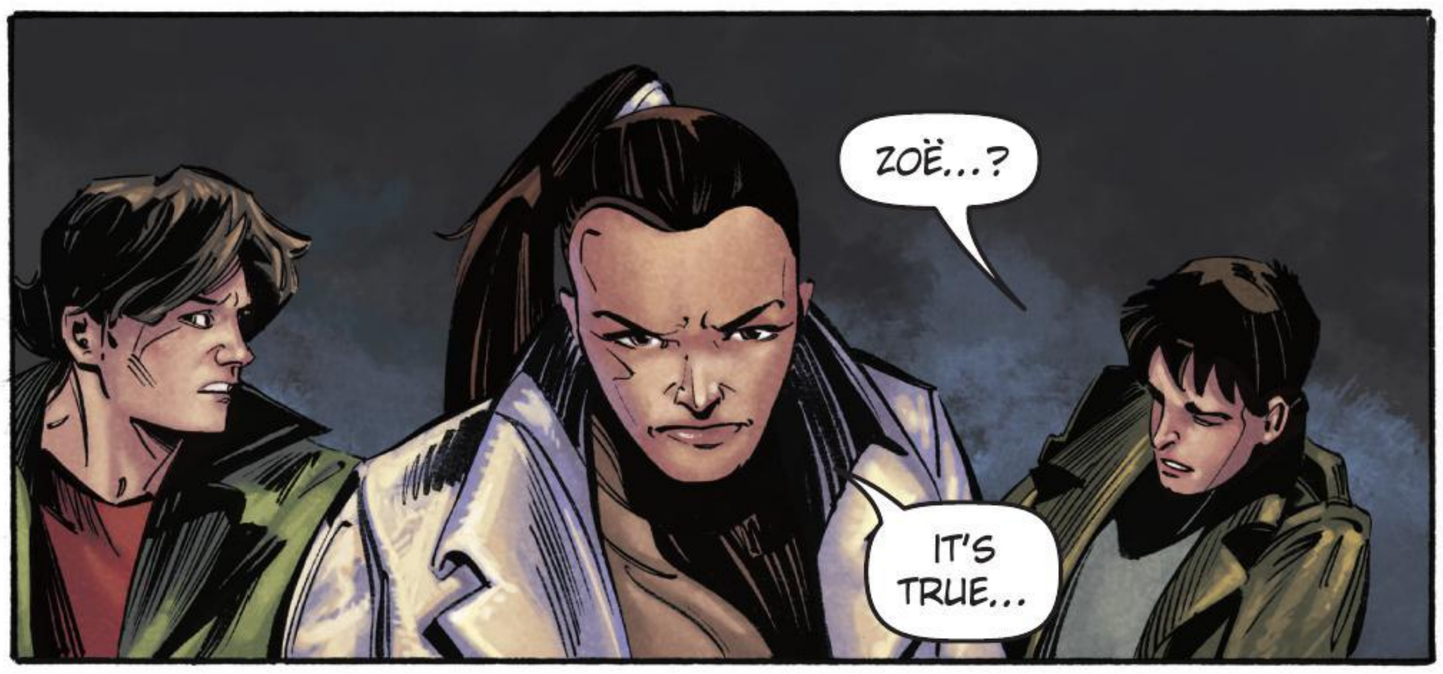

IN THE FIRST WAR, OLYMPUS AND OTHRYS WERE THE TWO RIVAL CAPITALS OF THE WORLD.
OTHRYS WAS BLASTED TO PIECES.
IT MOVES THROUGHOUT HISTORY THE WAY OLYMPUS MOVES, BUT THE FACT THAT IT IS HERE, ON THIS MOUNTAIN, IS NOT GOOD.

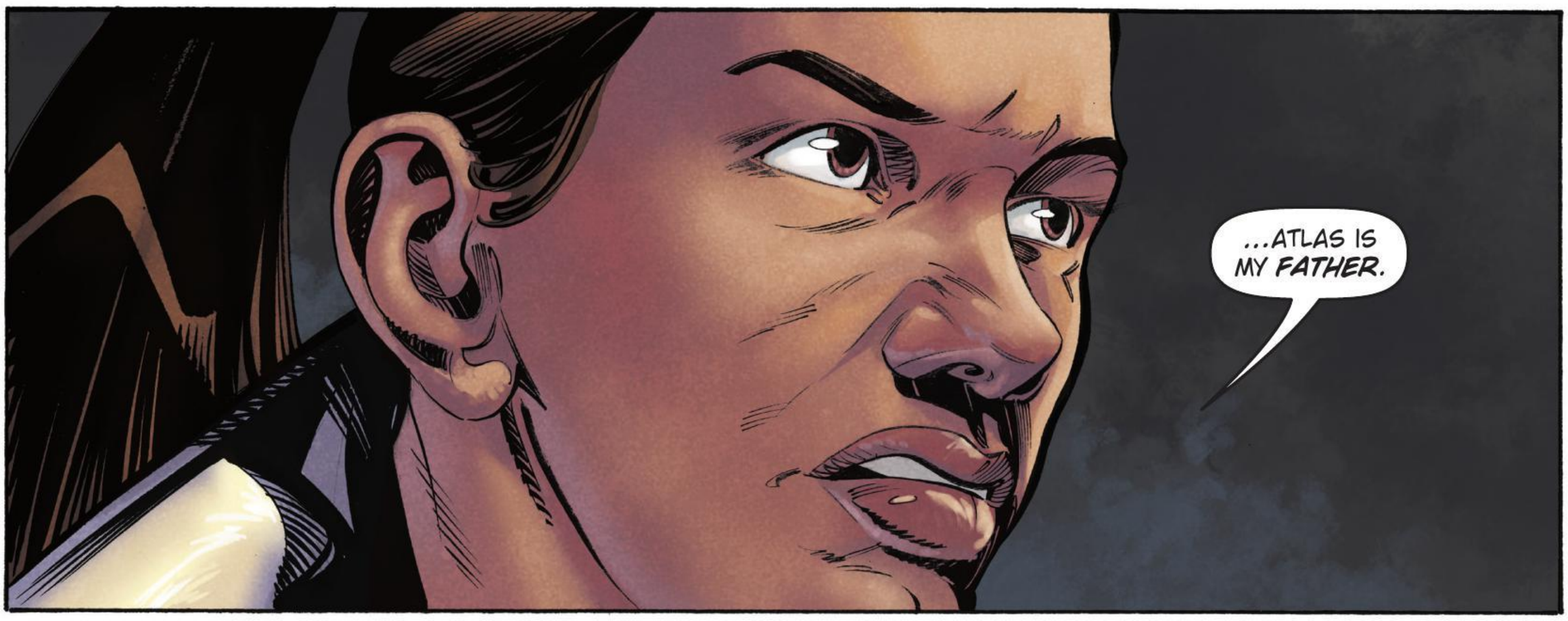
THIS IS ATLAS'S MOUNTAIN... WHERE HE HOLDS UP THE SKY.
CORRECTION--

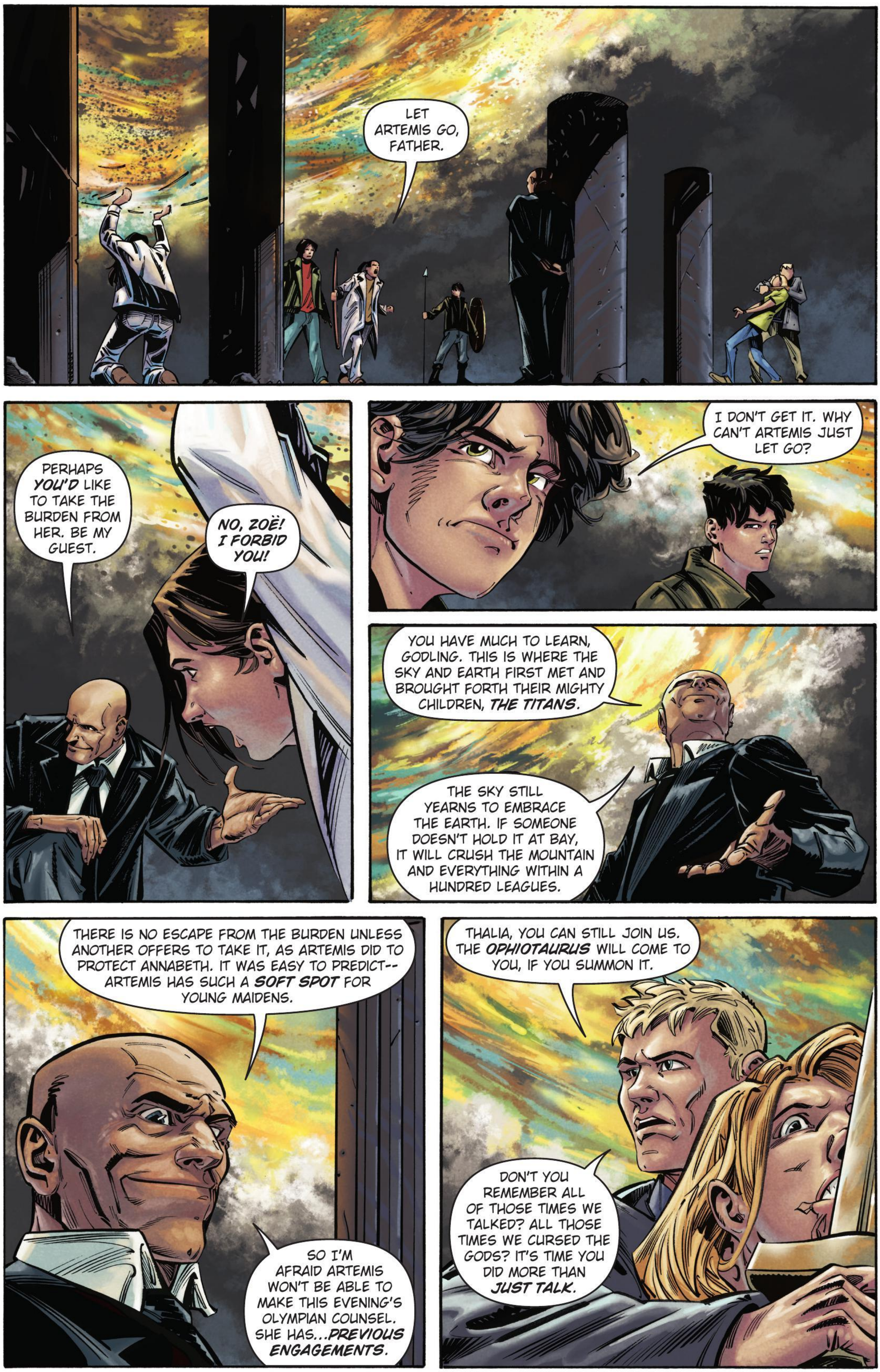
--WHERE I USED TO HOLD UP THE SKY.
HOW ARE YOU, MY LITTLE TRAITOR? I AM GOING TO ENJOY KILLING YOU.

YOU AREN'T GOING TO KILL ANYONE.
I WON'T LET YOU.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE, GODLING. THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER. OR HAS MY DAUGHTER NOT TOLD YOU?


ZOË...?
IT'S TRUE...


...ATLAS IS MY FATHER.


LET ARTEMIS GO, FATHER.
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE THE BURDEN FROM HER. BE MY GUEST.
NO, ZOË! I FORBID YOU!
I DON'T GET IT. WHY CAN'T ARTEMIS JUST LET GO?
YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, GODLING. THIS IS WHERE THE SKY AND EARTH FIRST MET AND BROUGHT FORTH THEIR MIGHTY CHILDREN, THE TITANS.
THE SKY STILL YEARNS TO EMBRACE THE EARTH. IF SOMEONE DOESN'T HOLD IT AT BAY, IT WILL CRUSH THE MOUNTAIN AND EVERYTHING WITHIN A HUNDRED LEAGUES.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE BURDEN UNLESS ANOTHER OFFERS TO TAKE IT, AS ARTEMIS DID TO PROTECT ANNABETH. IT WAS EASY TO PREDICT-- ARTEMIS HAS SUCH A SOFT SPOT FOR YOUNG MAIDENS.
SO I'M AFRAID ARTEMIS WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS EVENING'S OLYMPIAN COUNSEL. SHE HAS...PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS.
THALIA, YOU CAN STILL JOIN US. THE OPHIOTAURUS WILL COME TO YOU, IF YOU SUMMON IT.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ALL OF THOSE TIMES WE TALKED? ALL THOSE TIMES WE CURSED THE GODS? IT'S TIME YOU DID MORE THAN JUST TALK.

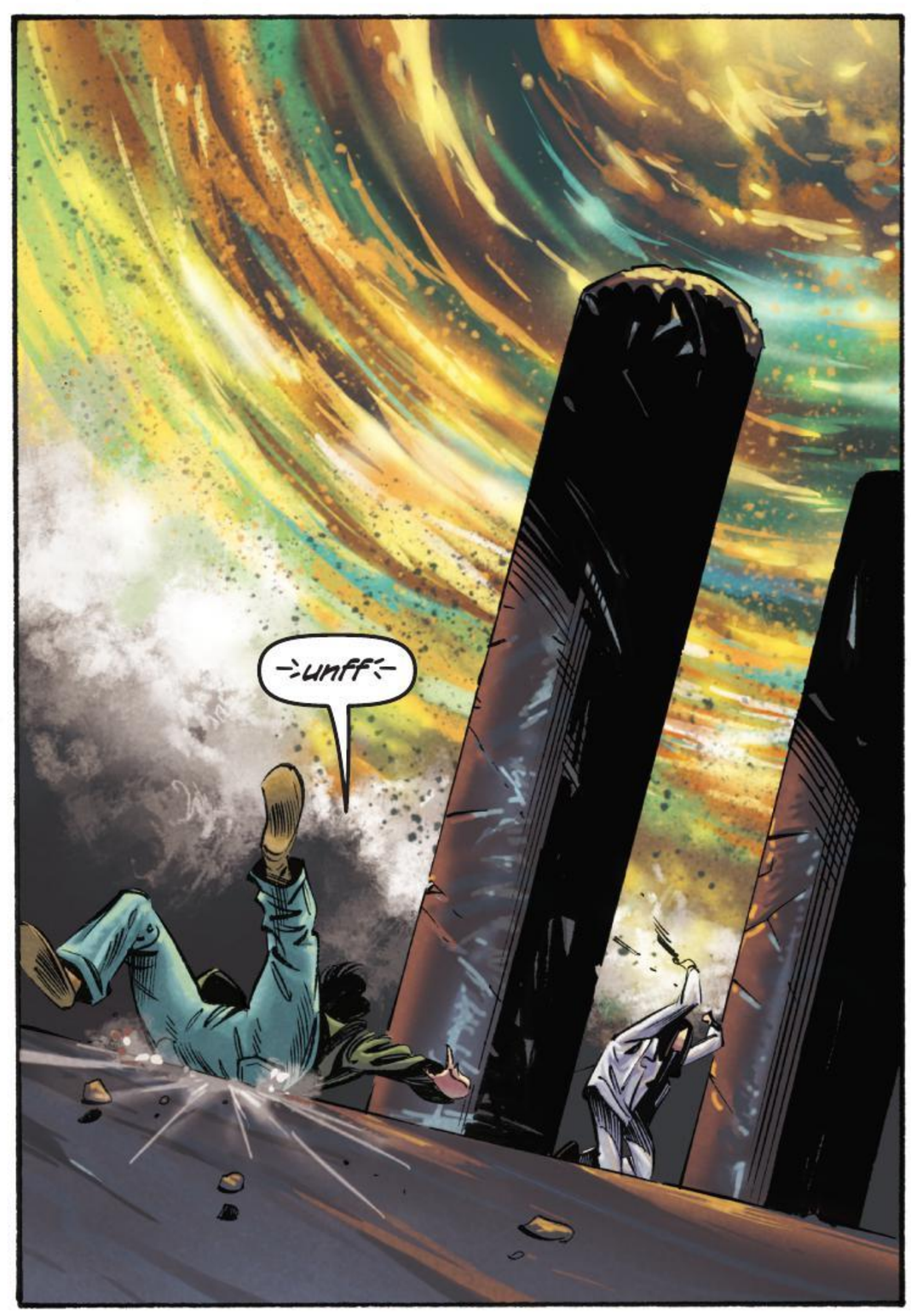
MY SHIP IS DOCKED AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN. WITH YOUR HELP, KRONOS'S ARMY WILL BE READY TO STORM CAMP HALF-BLOOD.
AND AFTER THAT, OLYMPUS ITSELF.
DON'T, THALIA... PLEASE.
I'LL NEVER JOIN YOU, LUKE. I DON'T KNOW YOU ANYMORE.
THEN YOU LEAVE US NO CHOICE.
FOR ZEUS!

YAH!
Z-ZZZT

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!
SKRRCH

FOOLISH BOY.
ANCIENT LAWS FORBID AN IMMORTAL FROM DIRECTLY CHALLENGING A HERO.
CLACK
BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE CHALLENGED ME--

-nng-
WHAM
--I AM FREE TO CHALLENGE IN KIND.

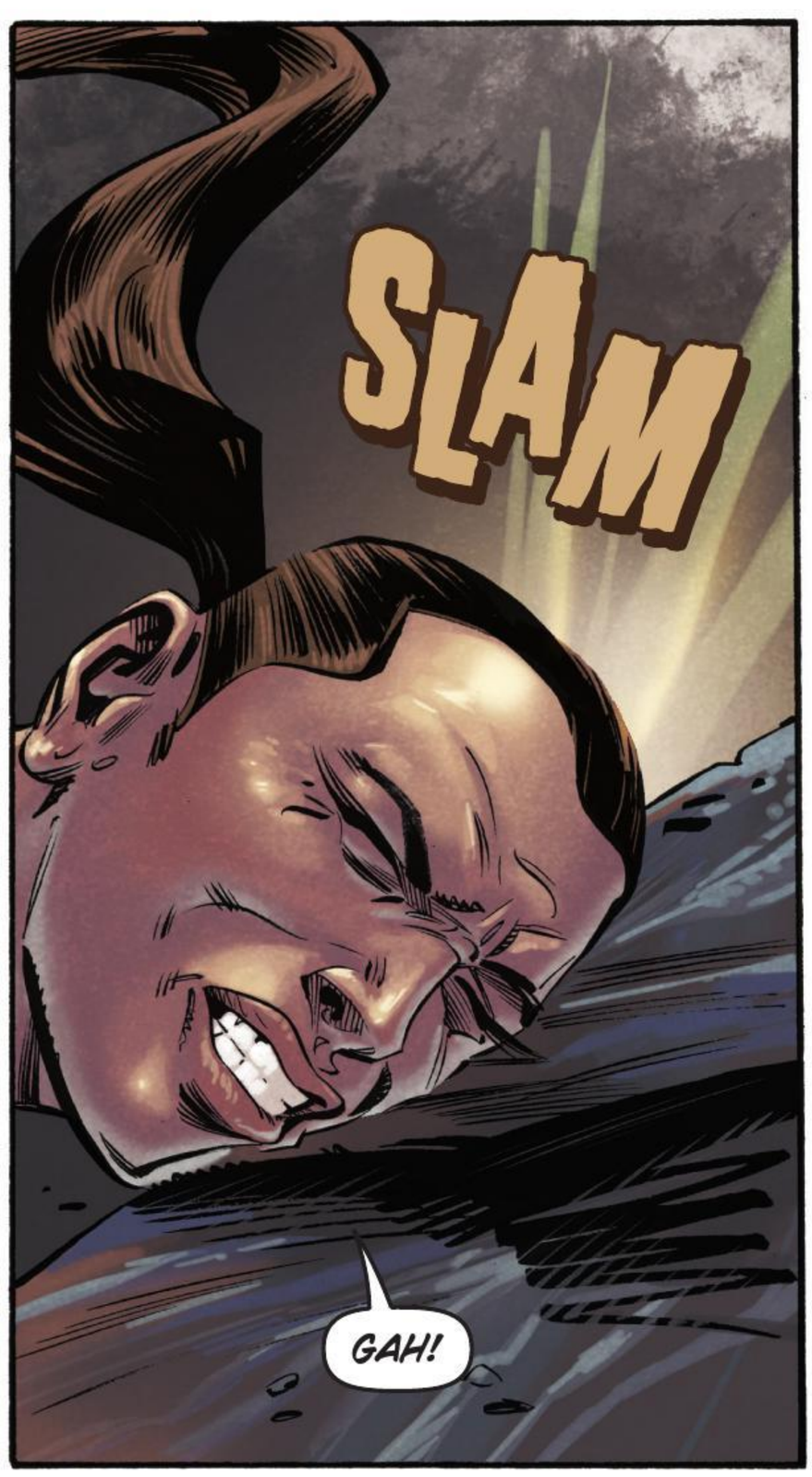

-umff-

RUN! A HALF-BLOOD IS NO MATCH FOR A TITAN!

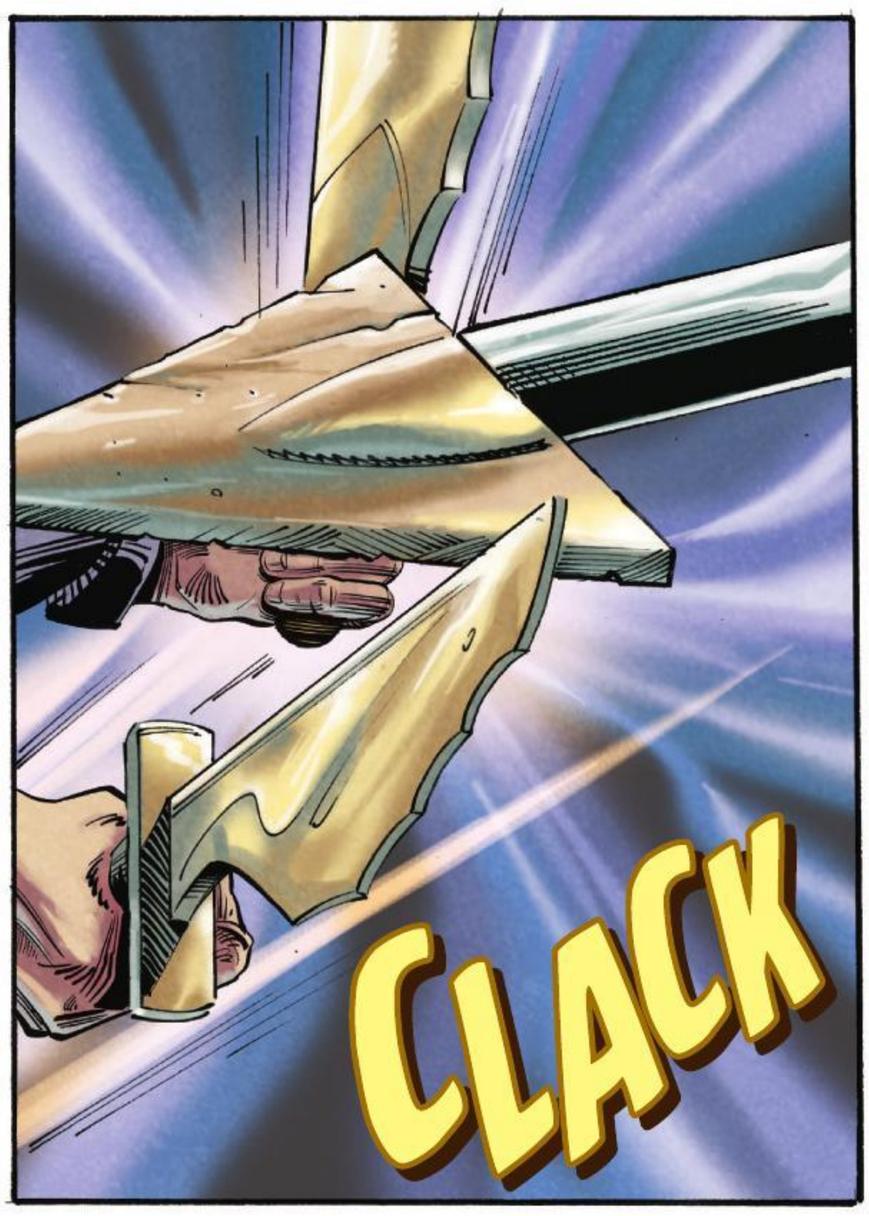
NO. BUT A GOD IS.

WHISH

SMACK


SLAM
GAH!

NOW, DAUGHTER, I SHALL REPAY YOU FOR TURNING AGAINST ME.


CLACK

I THINK NOT, ATLAS. IT IS YOU WHO HAVE A DEBT THAT NEEDS REPAYING.
HOW...?

huhmm

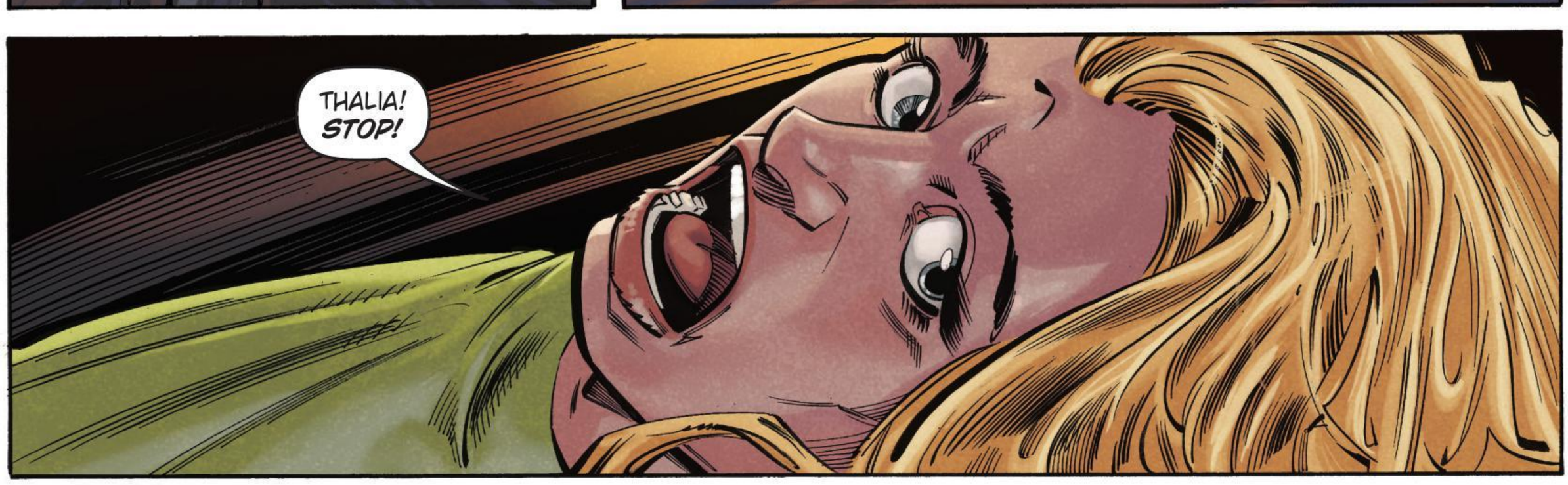
CLACK
CLACK

CLACK

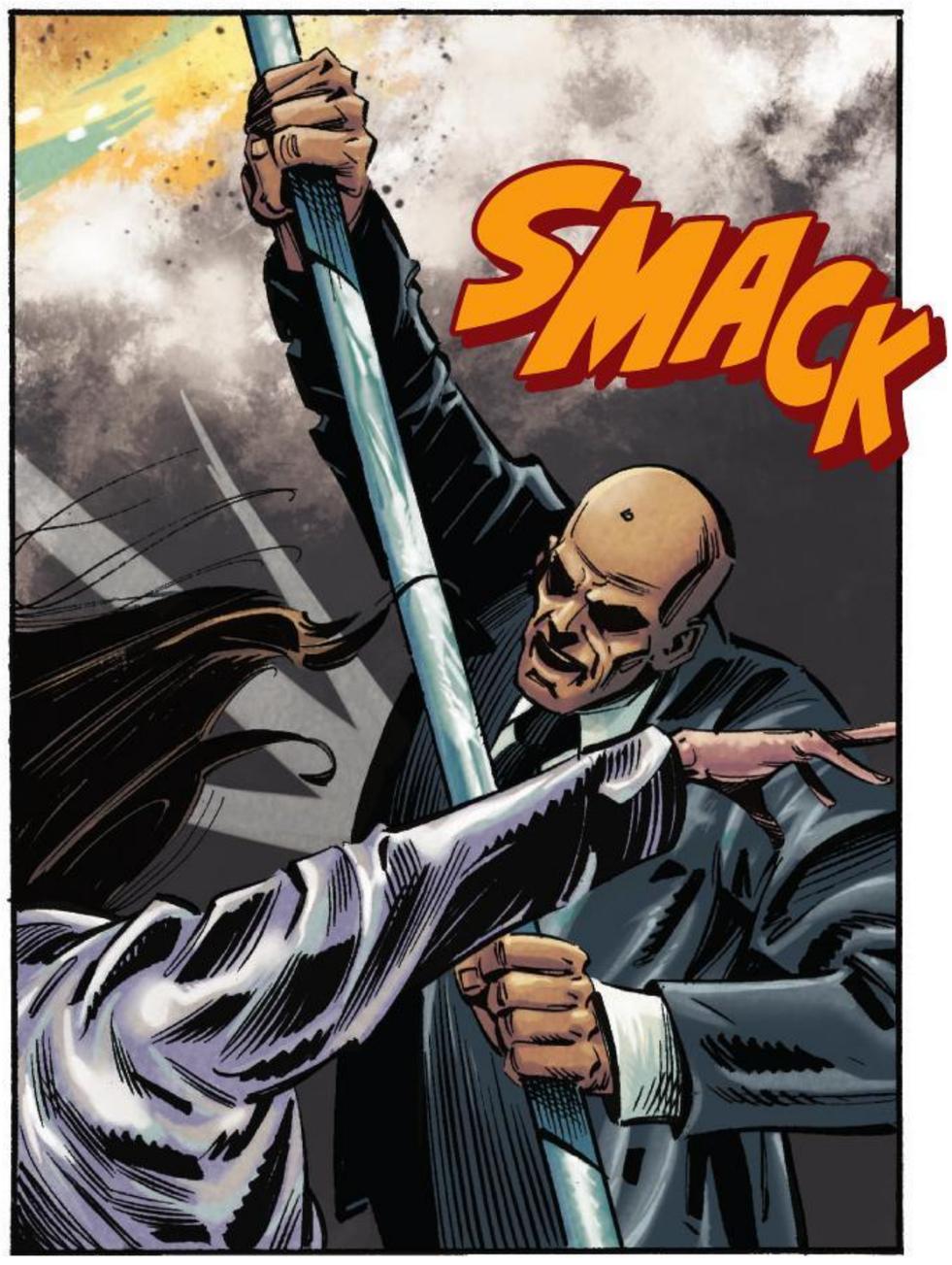
GIVE IT UP, THALIA!
CLACK

NEVER!

SMACK

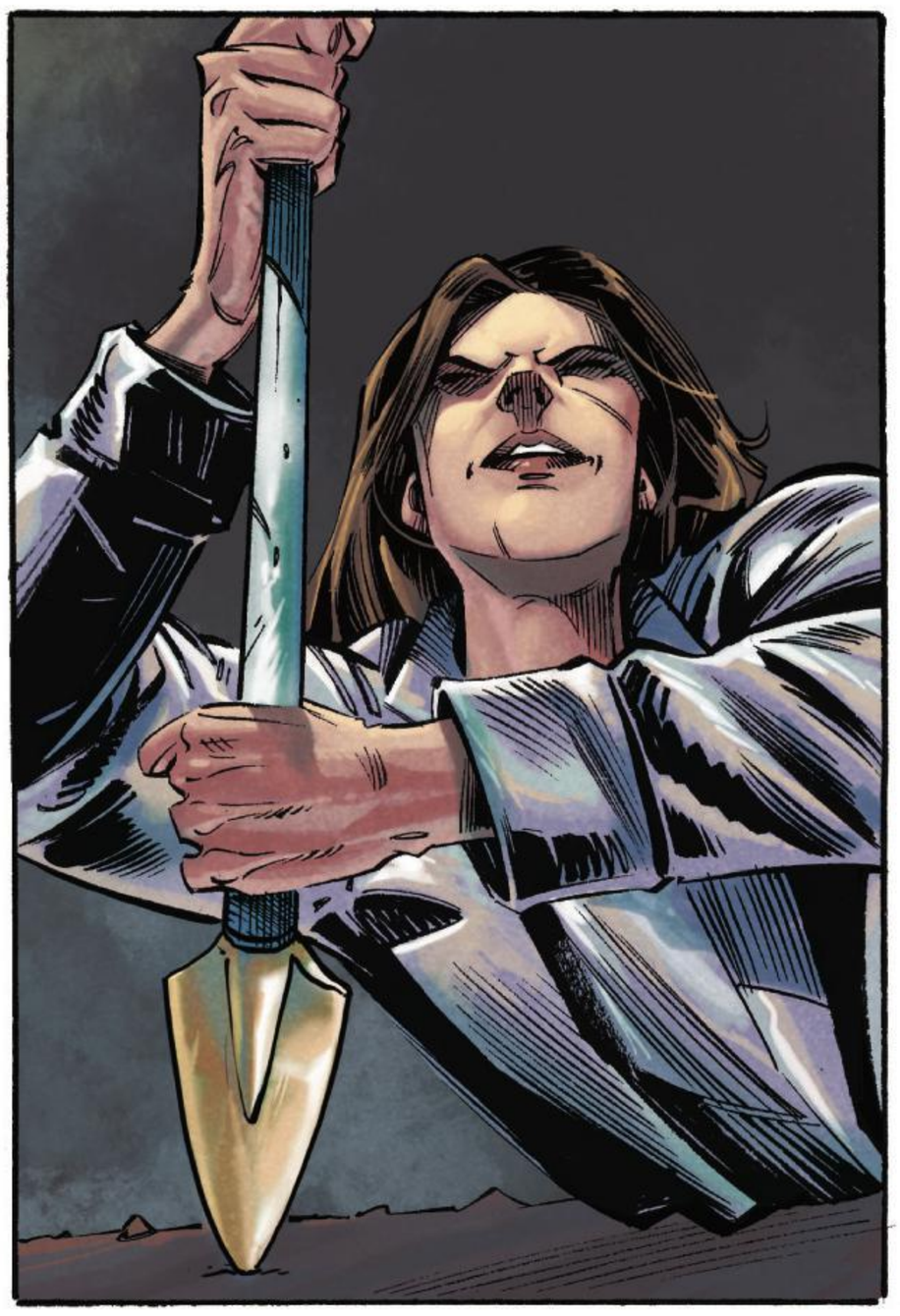

THALIA! STOP!

AAH!


SMACK

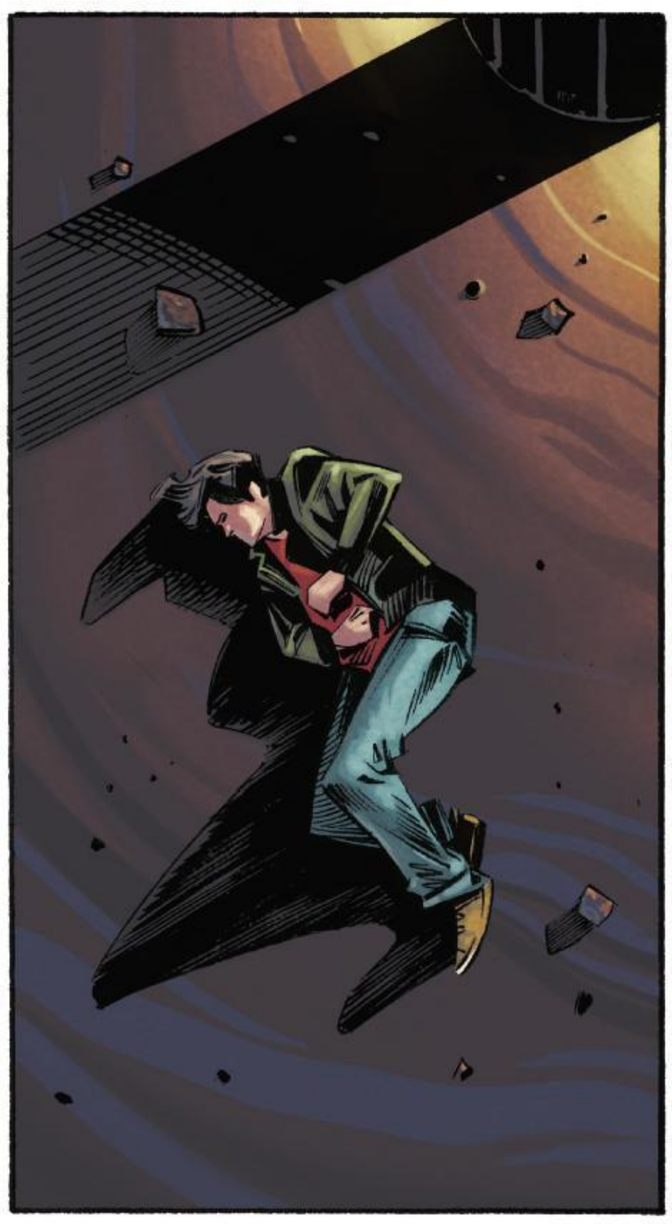
FINALLY. THE FIRST BLOOD OF A NEW WAR.

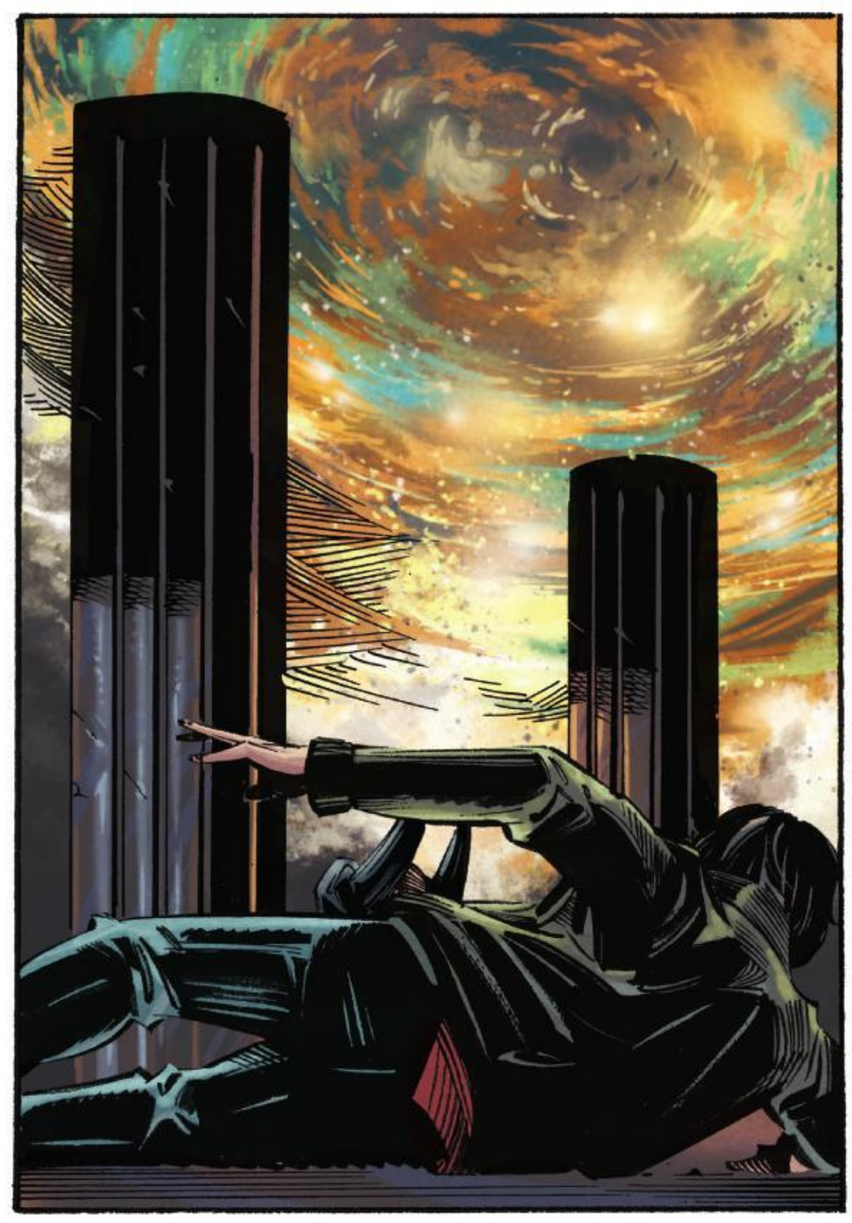
NO!



?

-:whuff:-



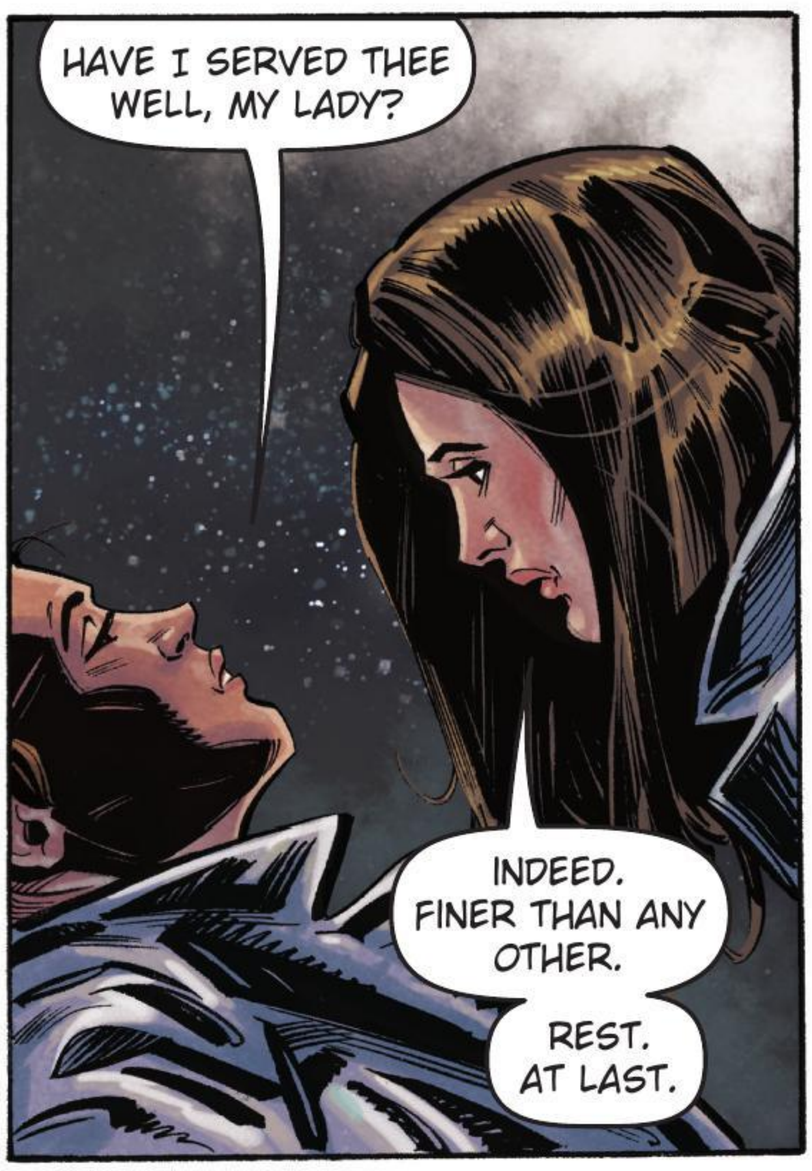


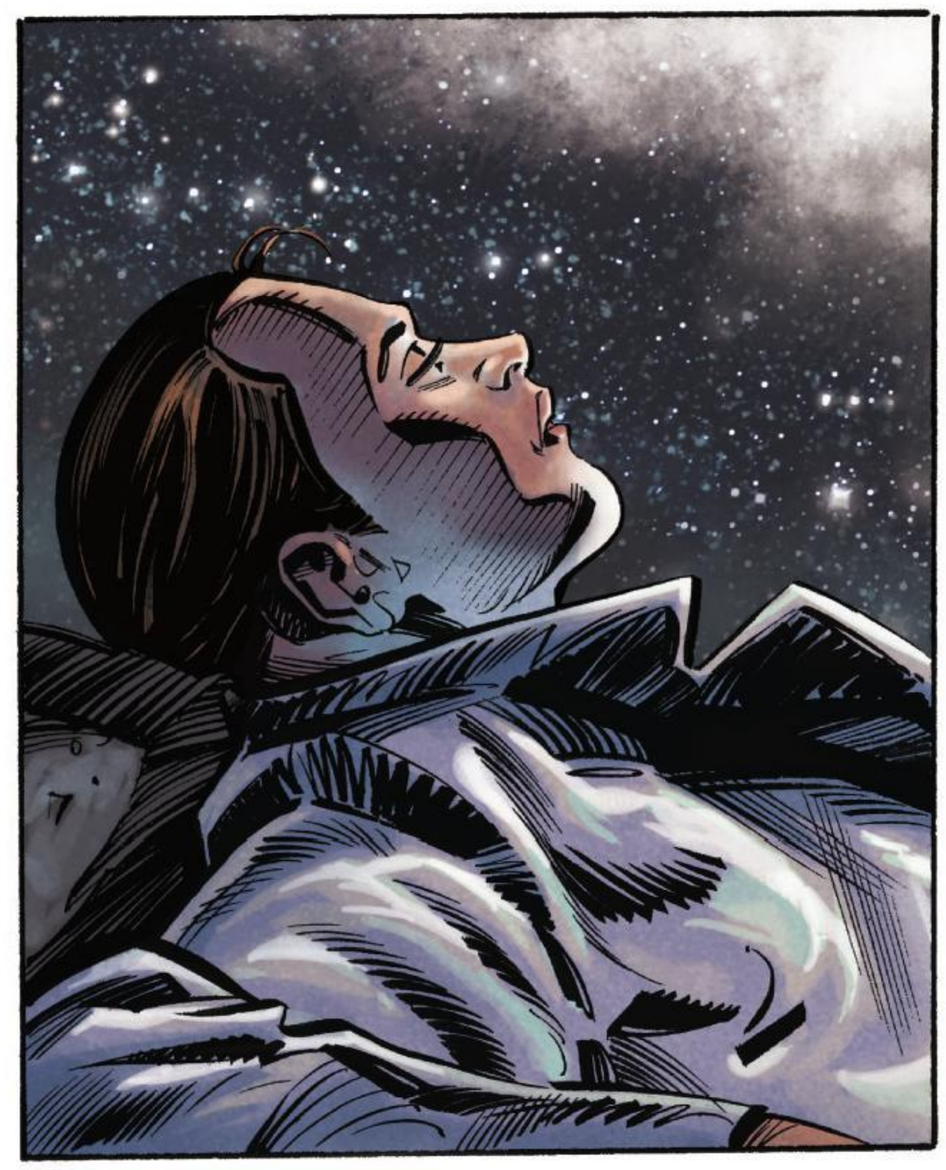
NO! CURSE YOU!

NO, TITAN. CURSE YOU. AGAIN.

EVERYONE, COME QUICK.

THE WOUND IS POISONED.
LADON BIT HER. SHE SAID IT WASN'T BAD....
PERHAPS NOT ALONE, BUT THE INJURIES SHE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF ATLAS ARE TOO SEVERE.

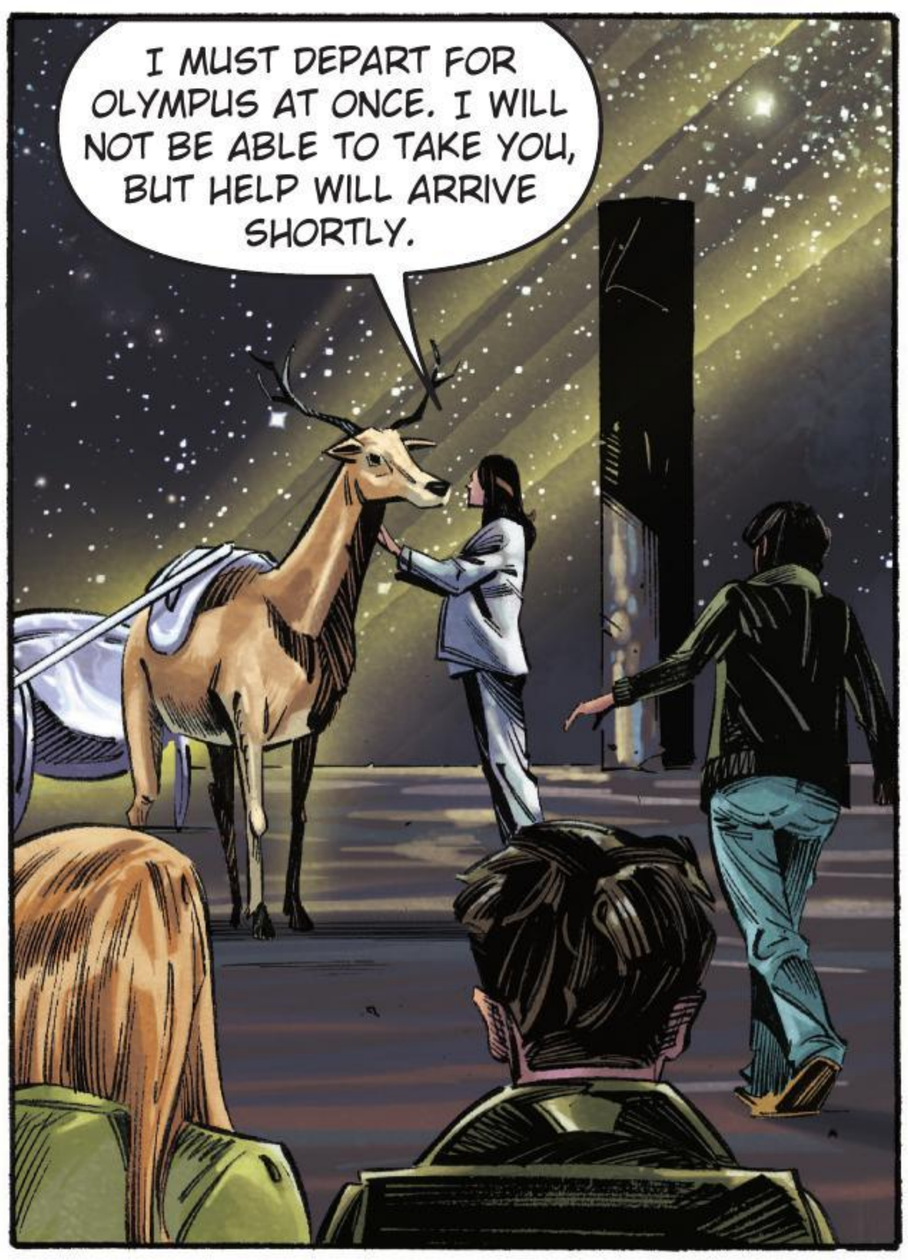

HAVE I SERVED THEE WELL, MY LADY?
INDEED. FINER THAN ANY OTHER.
REST. AT LAST.



"AND ONE SHALL PERISH BY A PARENT'S HAND." I ALMOST WISH THE ORACLE'S PROPHECY WAS MEANT FOR ME INSTEAD....

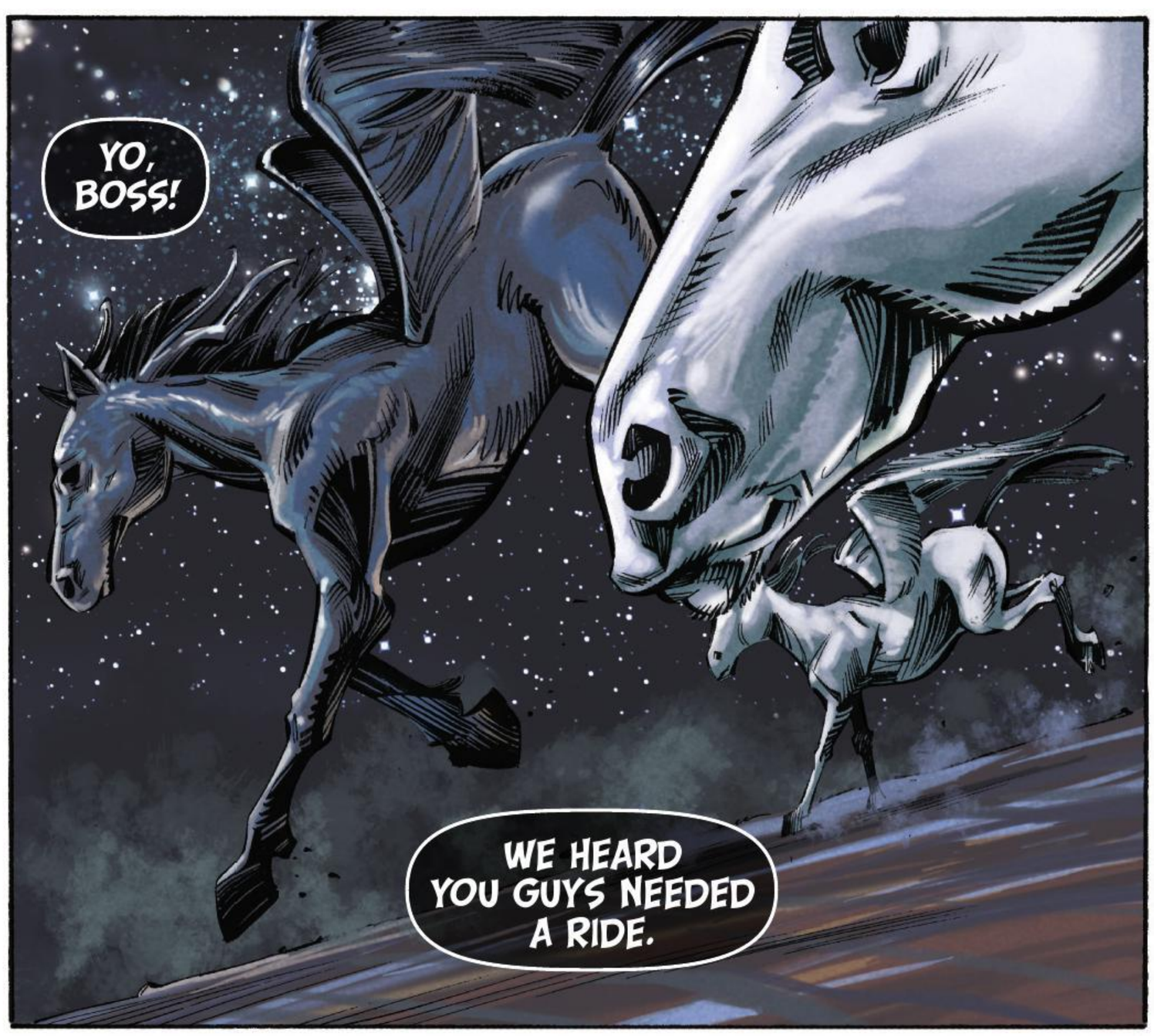
LET THE WORLD HONOR YOU, MY HUNTRESS--

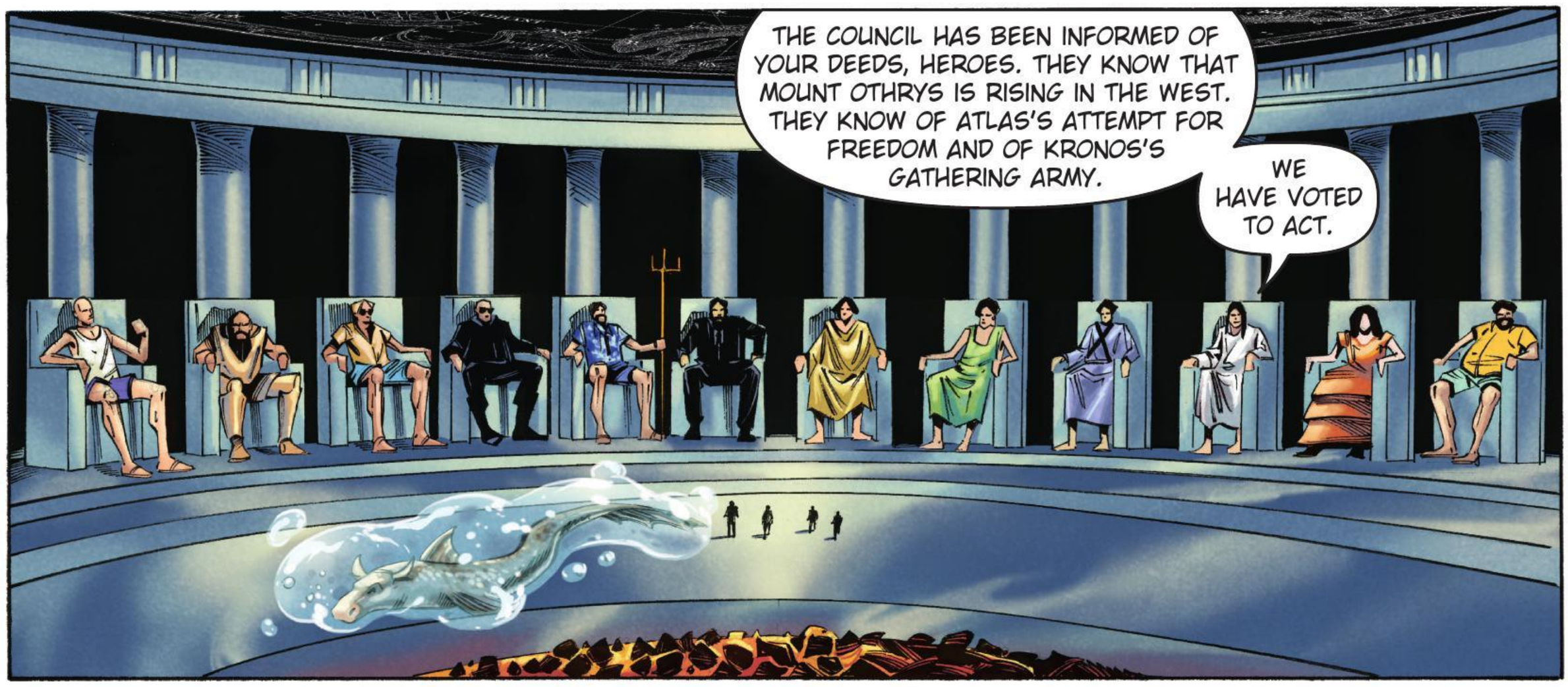
--LIVE FOREVER AMONG THE STARS.


I MUST DEPART FOR OLYMPUS AT ONCE. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU, BUT HELP WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.

YOU DID WELL, PERSEUS JACKSON. FOR A MAN.

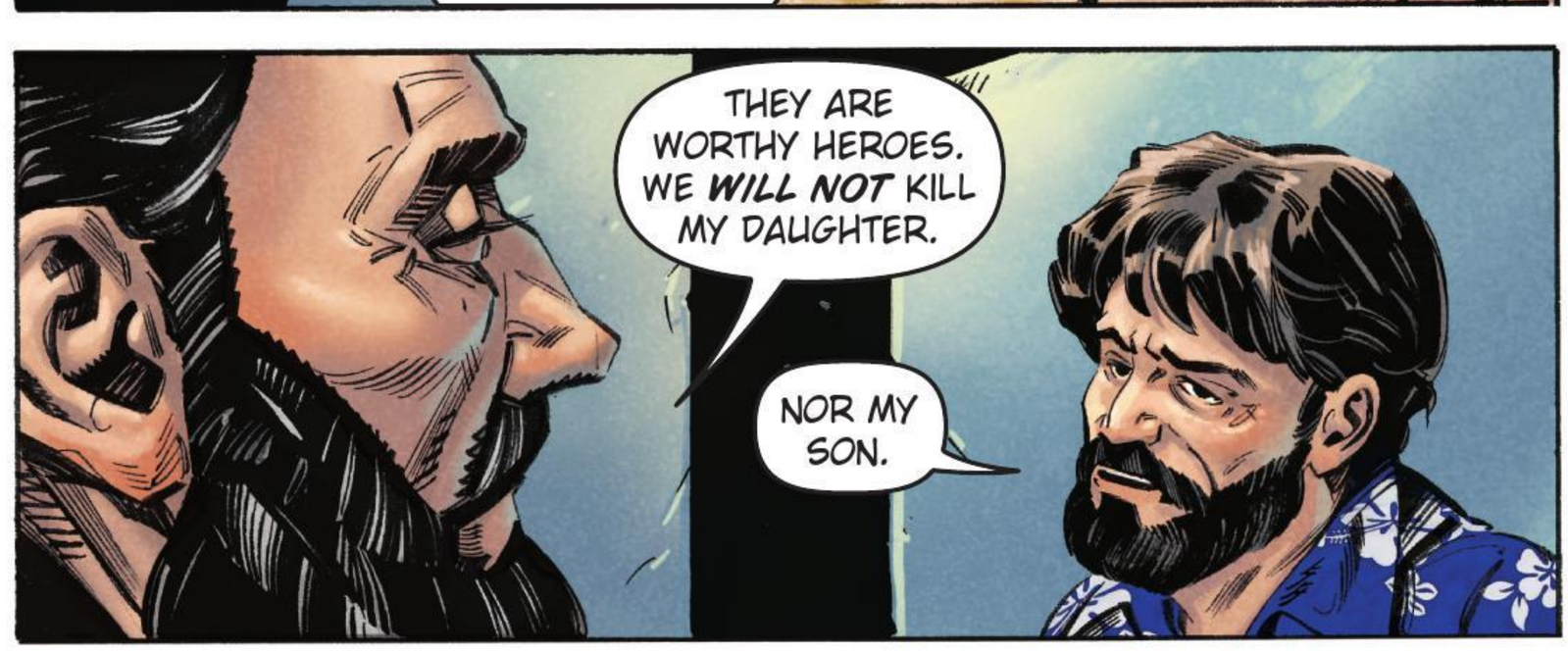
NOW WHAT?
UH...GUYS? INCOMING.

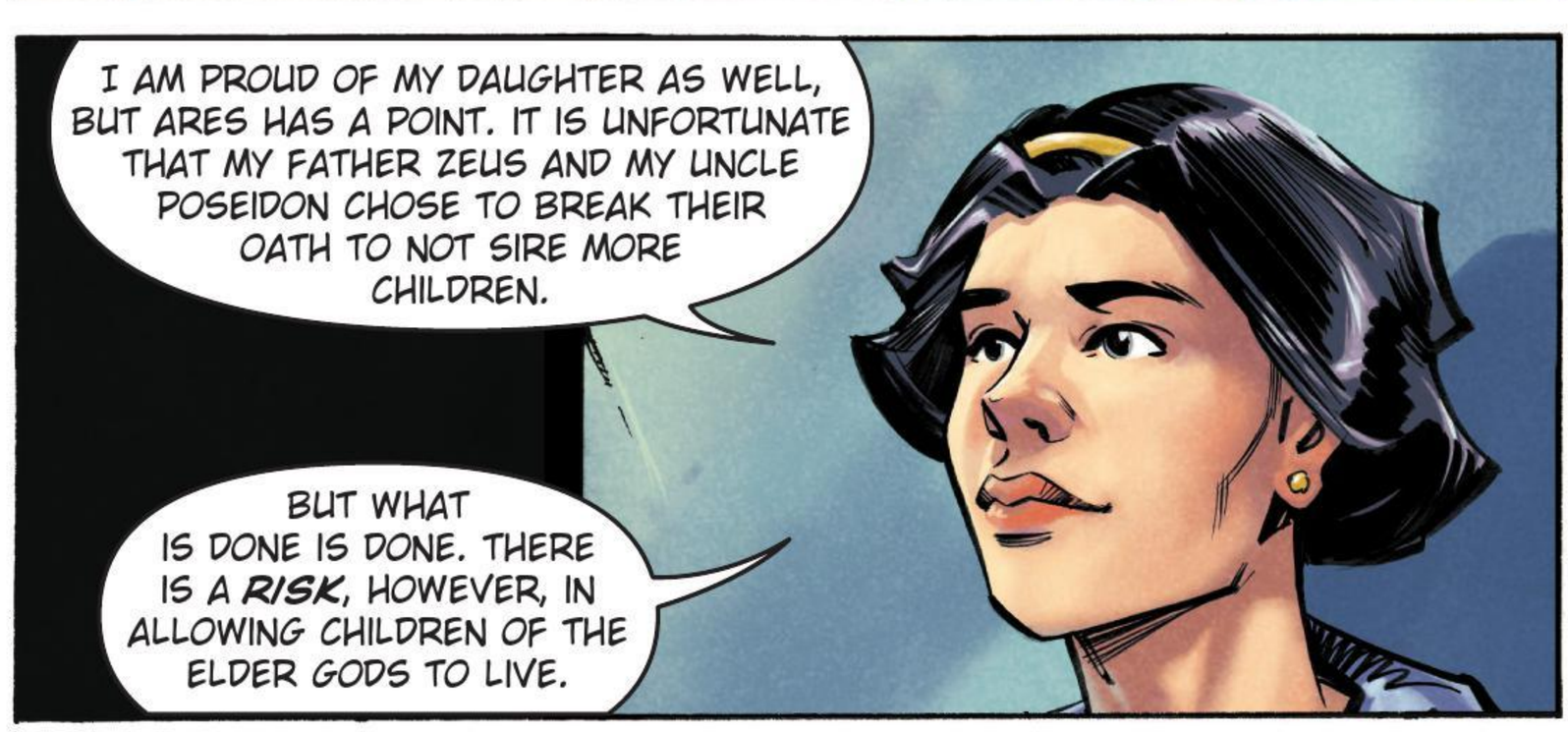

YO, BOSS!
WE HEARD YOU GUYS NEEDED A RIDE.


THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR DEEDS, HEROES. THEY KNOW THAT MOUNT OTHRYS IS RISING IN THE WEST. THEY KNOW OF ATLAS'S ATTEMPT FOR FREEDOM AND OF KRONOS'S GATHERING ARMY.
WE HAVE VOTED TO ACT.

APOLLO AND I SHALL HUNT THE MOST POWERFUL MONSTERS. ATHENA WILL CHECK ON THE OTHER TITANS TO MAKE SURE THEY REMAIN IN THEIR PRISONS. POSEIDON WILL UNLEASH HIS FULL FURY ON THE *PRINCESS ANDROMEDA*.
AS FOR YOU, YOUNG HEROES, NONE HERE WOULD DENY THAT YOU HAVE DONE OLYMPUS A GREAT SERVICE.

I GOTTA SAY, YOU KIDS DID OKAY. -ahem- HEROES WIN LAURELS--
NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE. HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THE ORACLE'S PROPHECY?
TWO OF THESE ***RUNTS*** ARE DANGEROUS.
IT'D BE SAFER TO ***RUN THEM THROUGH*** AND BE DONE WITH IT.

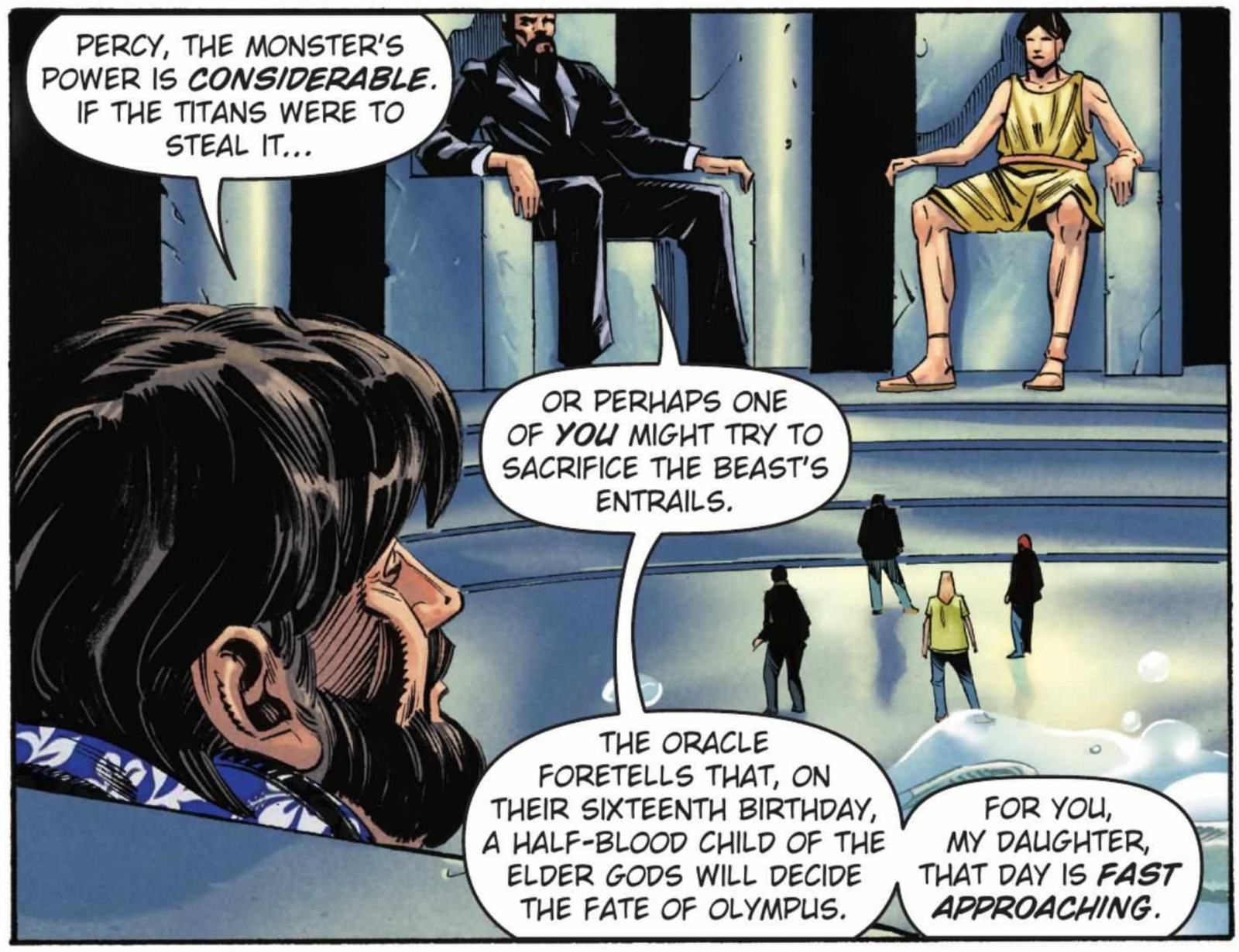

THEY ARE WORTHY HEROES. WE ***WILL NOT*** KILL MY DAUGHTER.
NOR MY SON.

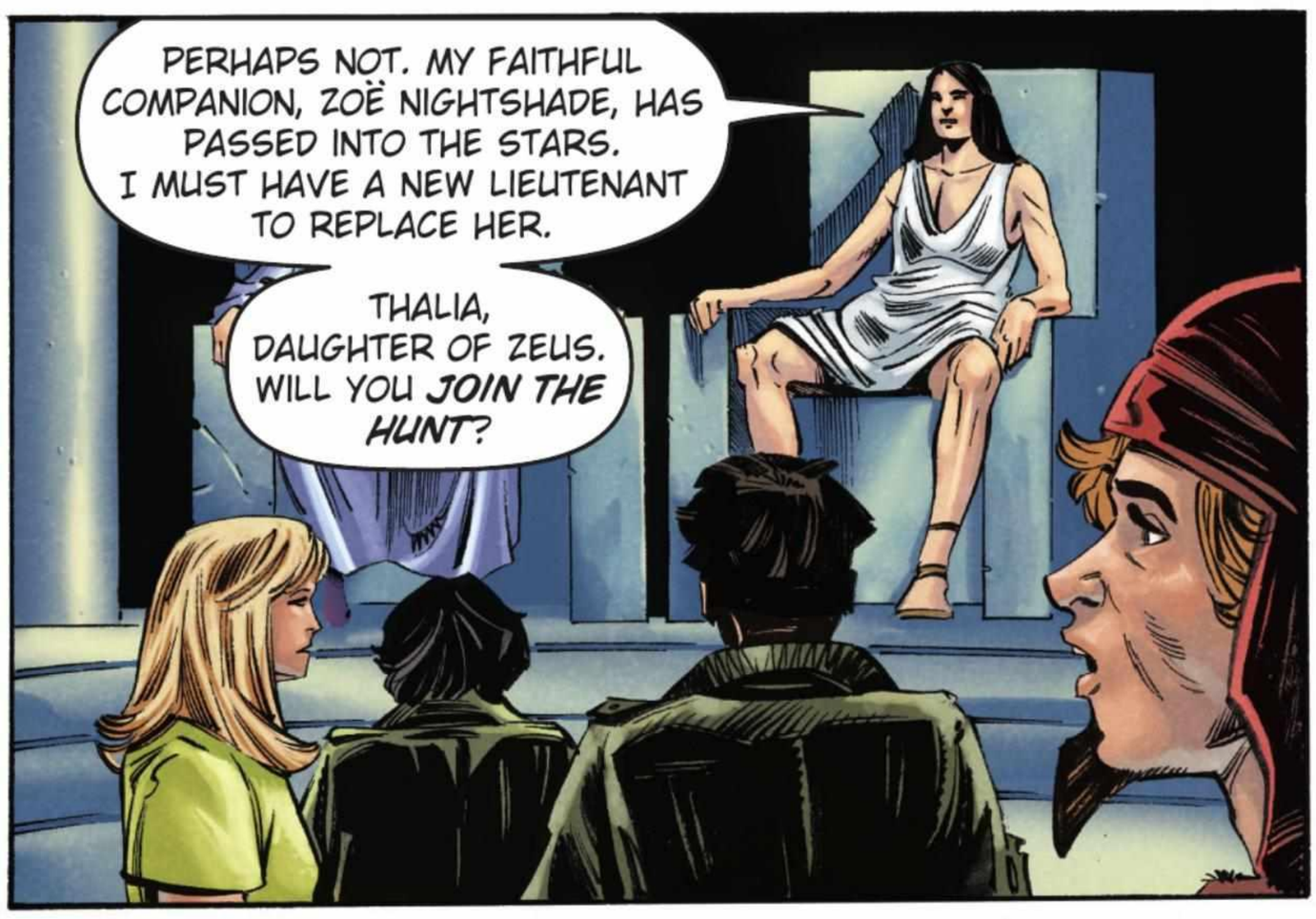

I AM PROUD OF MY DAUGHTER AS WELL, BUT ARES HAS A POINT. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT MY FATHER ZEUS AND MY UNCLE POSEIDON CHOSE TO BREAK THEIR OATH TO NOT SIRE MORE CHILDREN.
BUT WHAT IS DONE IS DONE. THERE IS A ***RISK***, HOWEVER, IN ALLOWING CHILDREN OF THE ELDER GODS TO LIVE.

MOTHER!

THALIA AND PERCY WILL NOT BE HARMED. I INSIST UPON IT.
THE BEAST, HOWEVER, IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY. I BELIEVE WE ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT IT MUST BE DESTROYED?

YOU WANT TO KILL BESSIE? WHAT FOR? HE'S JUST A SEA CREATURE. AND A REALLY NICE ONE, TOO!
YOU CAN'T!
MOO!


PERCY, THE MONSTER'S POWER IS CONSIDERABLE. IF THE TITANS WERE TO STEAL IT...
OR PERHAPS ONE OF YOU MIGHT TRY TO SACRIFICE THE BEAST'S ENTRAILS.
THE ORACLE FORETELLS THAT, ON THEIR SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, A HALF-BLOOD CHILD OF THE ELDER GODS WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF OLYMPUS.
FOR YOU, MY DAUGHTER, THAT DAY IS FAST APPROACHING.


PERHAPS NOT. MY FAITHFUL COMPANION, ZOË NIGHTSHADE, HAS PASSED INTO THE STARS. I MUST HAVE A NEW LIEUTENANT TO REPLACE HER.
THALIA, DAUGHTER OF ZEUS. WILL YOU JOIN THE HUNT?

DO NOT BE RASH, DAUGHTER...CONSIDER YOUR DECISION CAREFULLY.

FATHER, I WILL NOT TURN SIXTEEN TOMORROW. I WILL NEVER TURN SIXTEEN. I WON'T LET THIS PROPHECY BE MINE.

LADY ARTEMIS, I ACCEPT.

THE BOY IS STILL DANGEROUS. AND THE BEAST IS A TEMPTATION TO GREAT POWER.
NO. PLEASE, KEEP THE OPHIOTAURUS SAFE. I'M ONLY FOURTEEN. IF THE PROPHECY *IS* ABOUT ME, THAT'S STILL TWO YEARS FROM NOW.

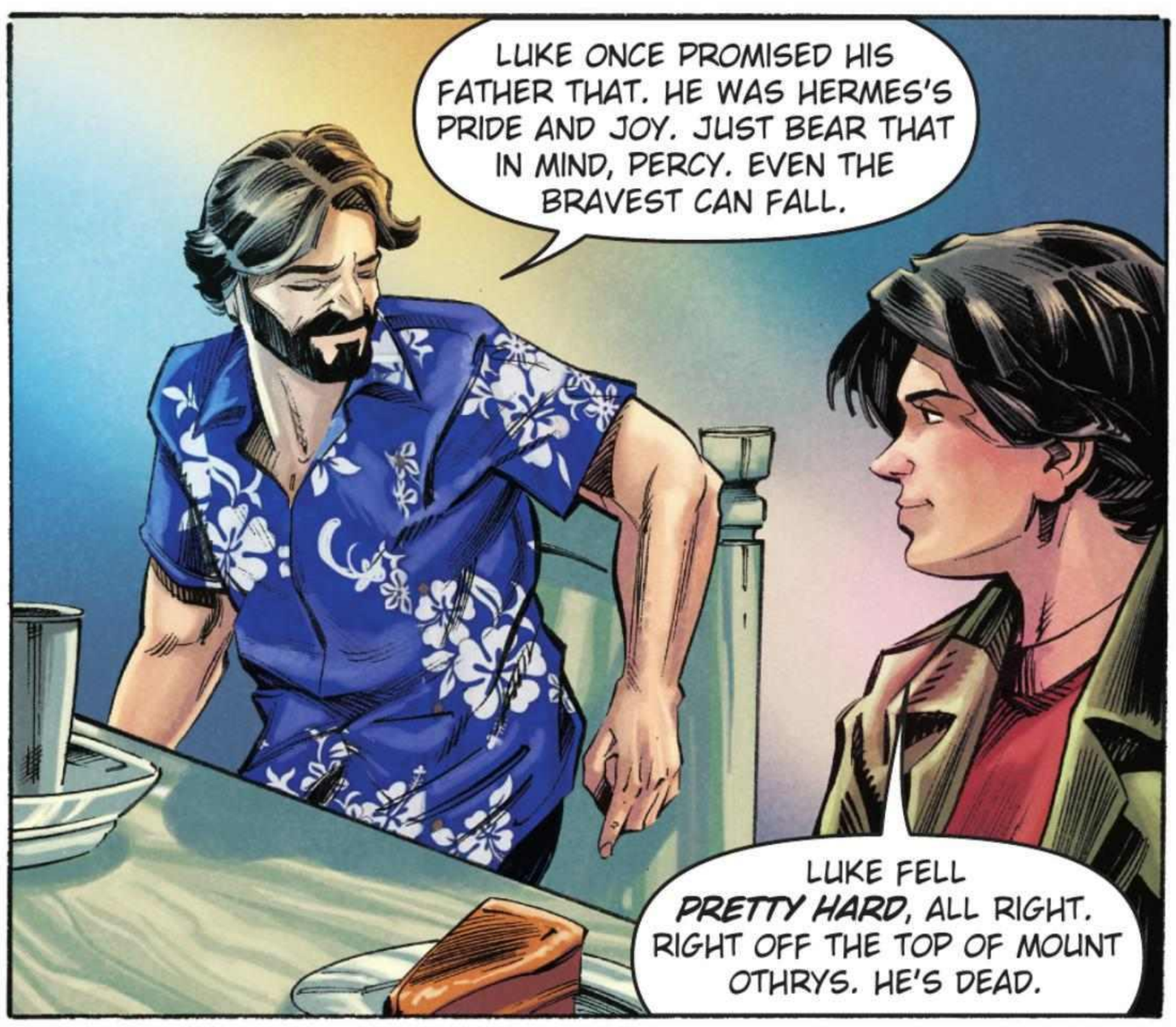
TWO YEARS FOR KRONOS TO *DECEIVE* YOU.
IT IS BAD STRATEGY TO KEEP THE BEAST ALIVE. OR YOU.

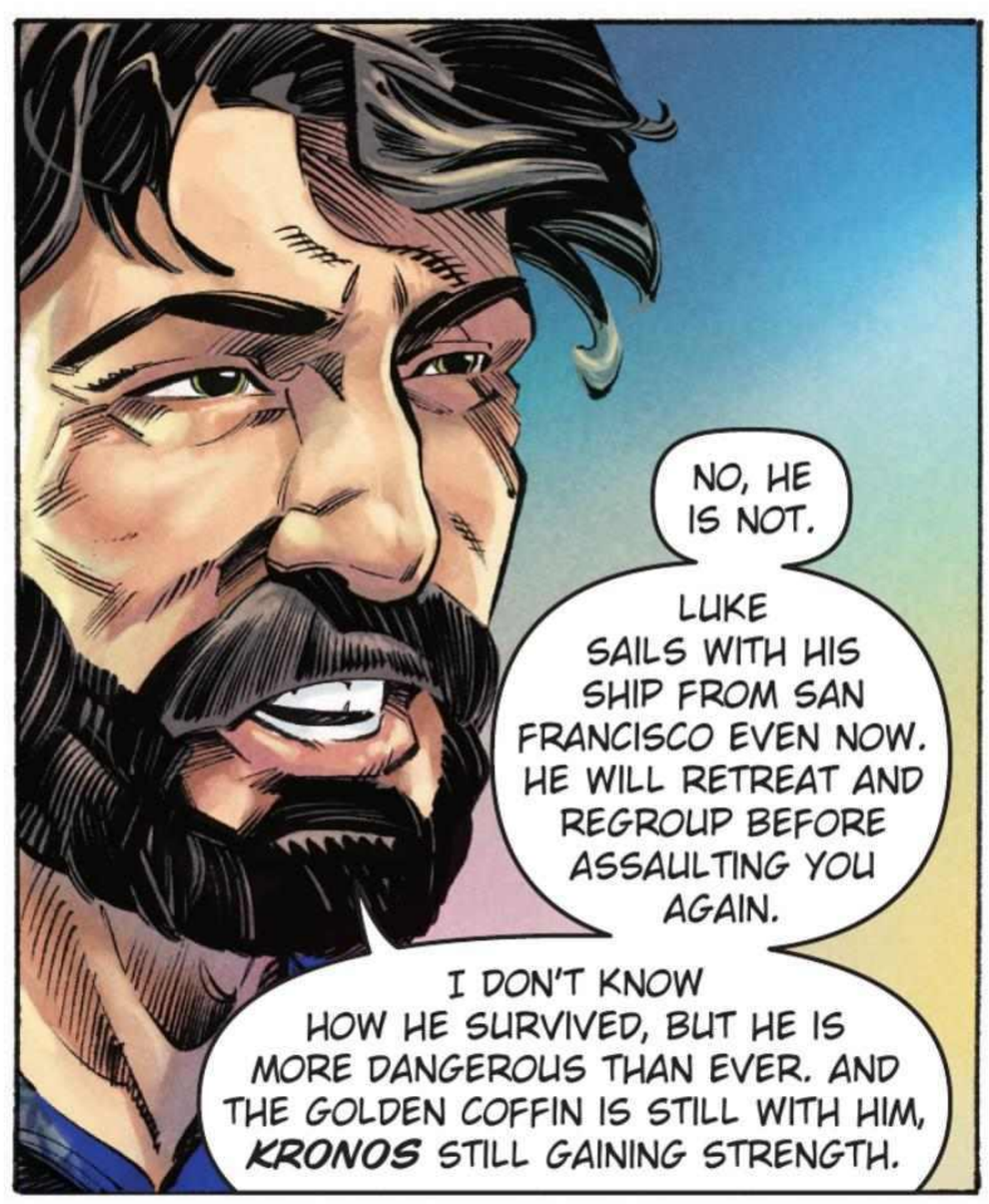
I WILL BUILD AN AQUARIUM FOR THE CREATURE HERE. HEPHAESTUS WILL HELP. WE WILL PROTECT IT WITH ALL OF OUR POWERS, AND IT WILL BE SAFE.
AS FOR THE BOY...HE WILL NOT BETRAY US. I VOUCH FOR THIS *ON MY HONOR.*

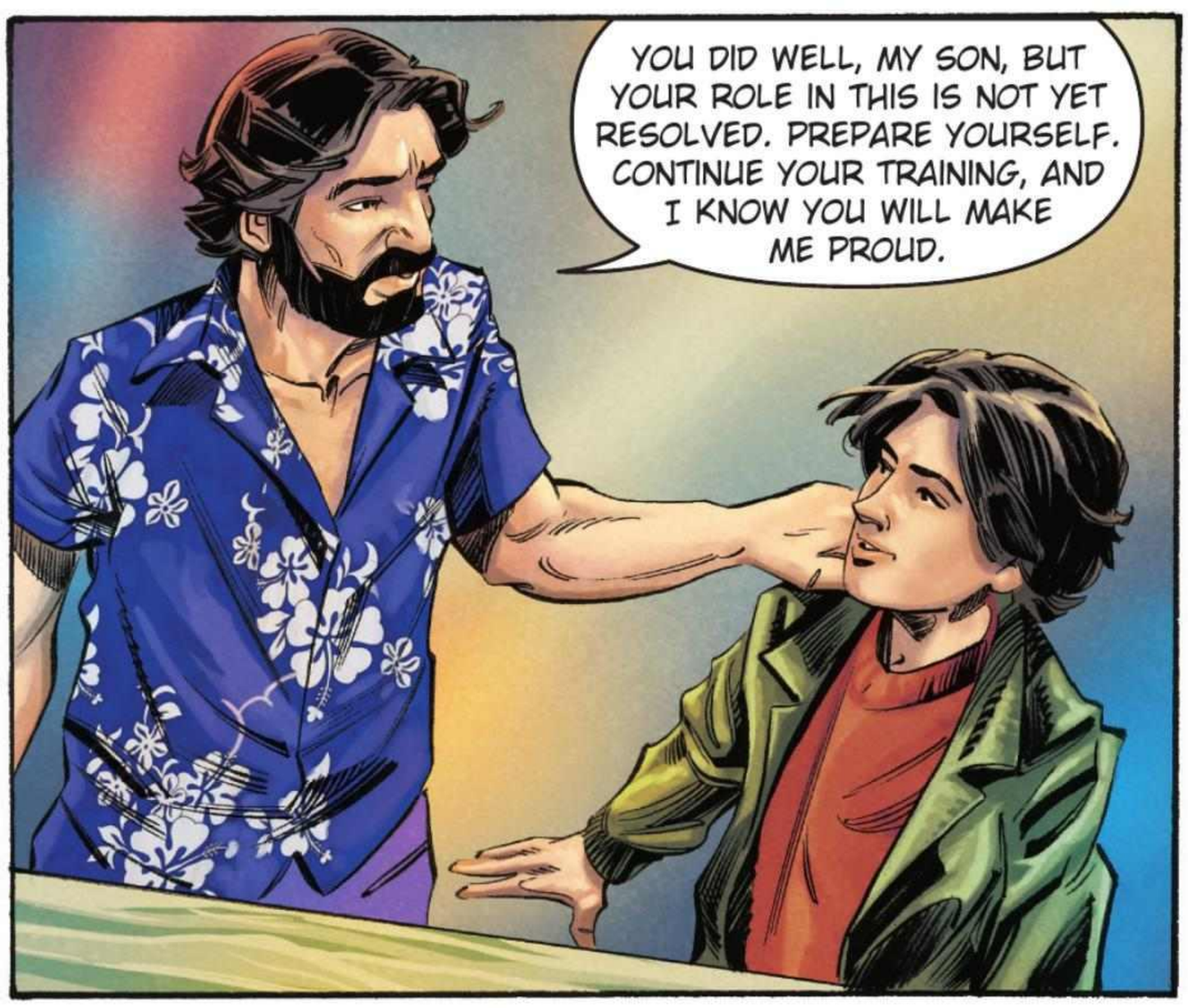
ALL IN FAVOR?

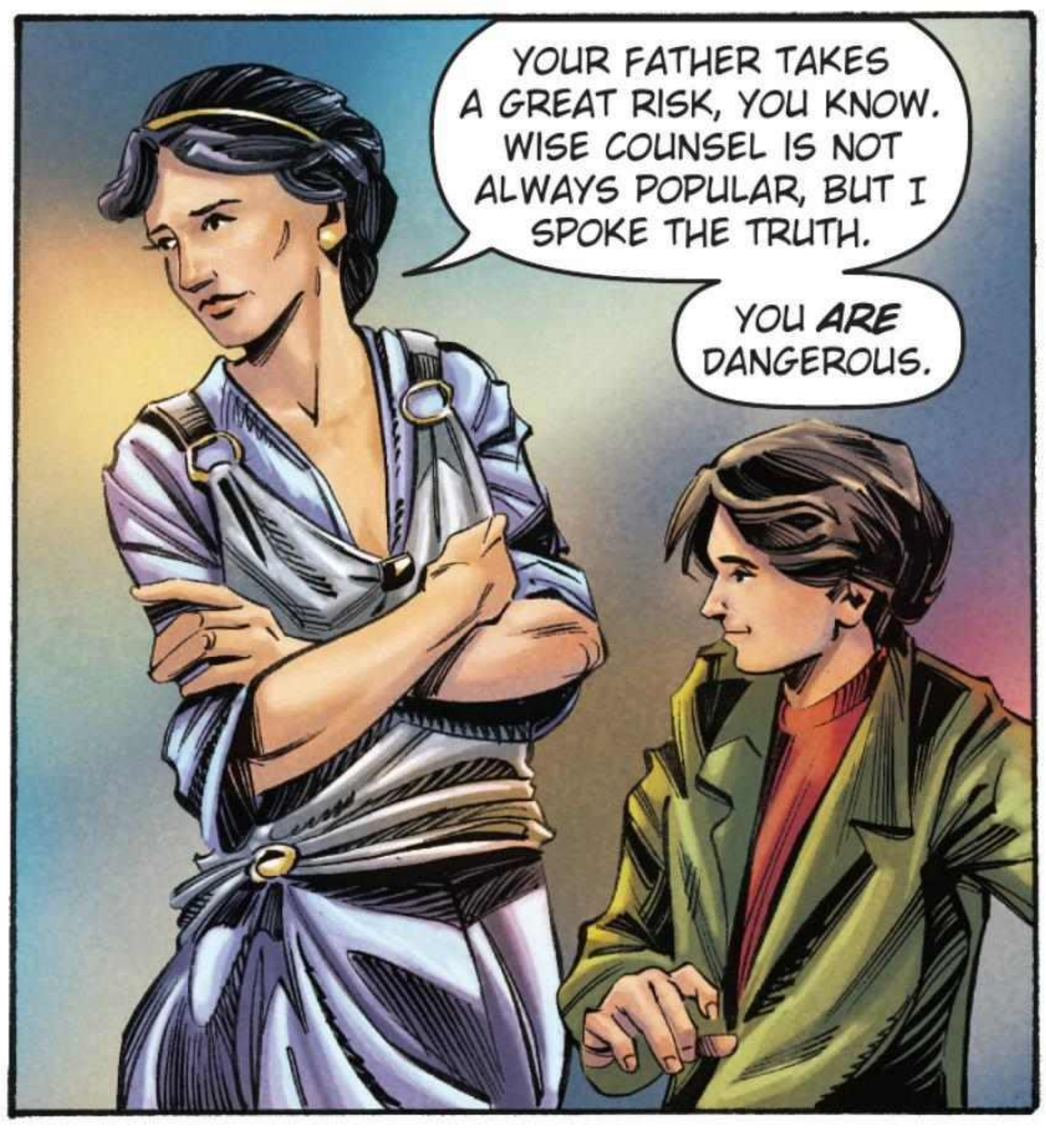
WE HAVE A MAJORITY.
AND SO, SINCE WE WILL NOT BE DESTROYING ANY*ONE* OR ANY*THING*, I IMAGINE WE SHOULD HONOR THE HEROES.

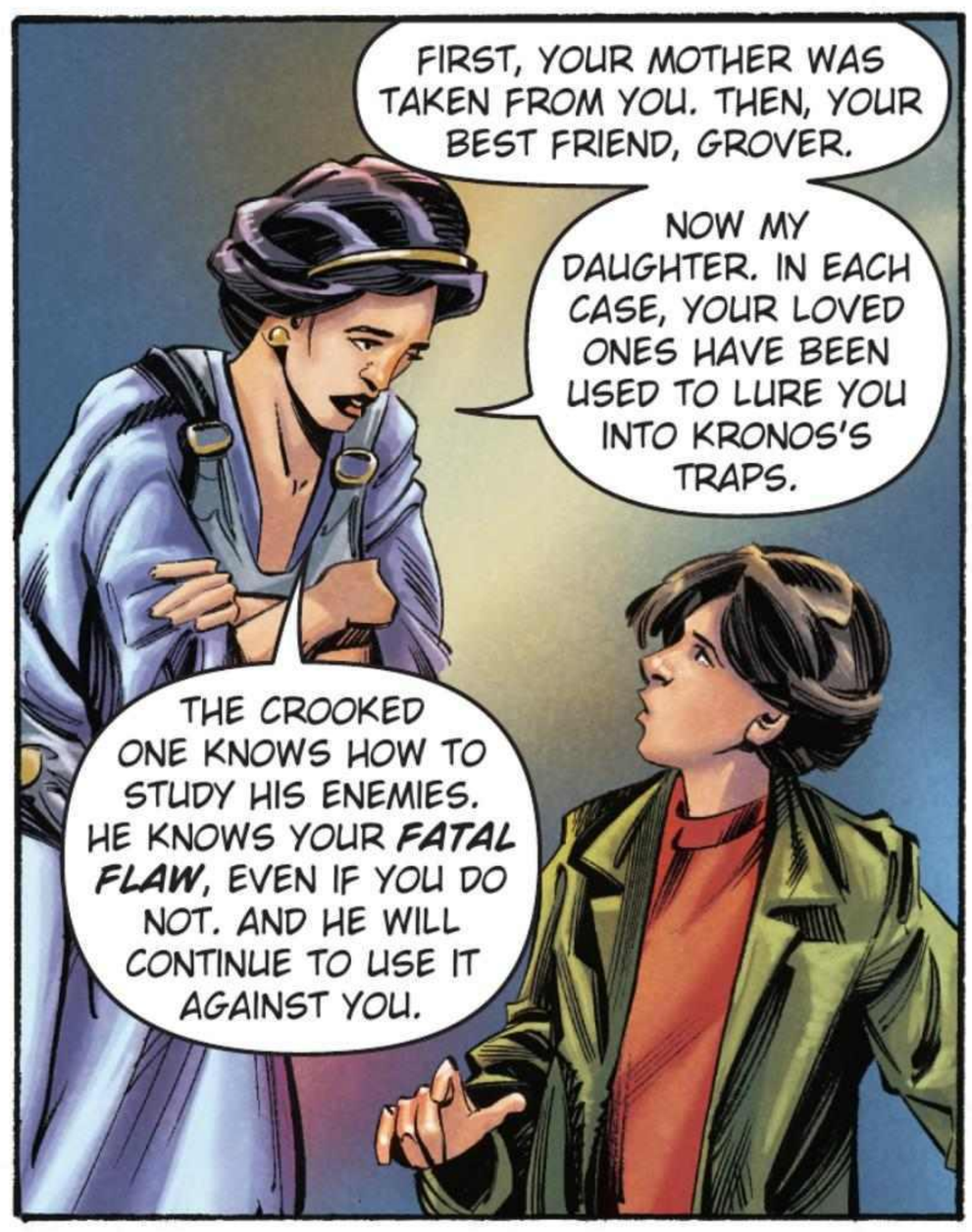
"LET THE TRIUMPH CELEBRATION BEGIN."

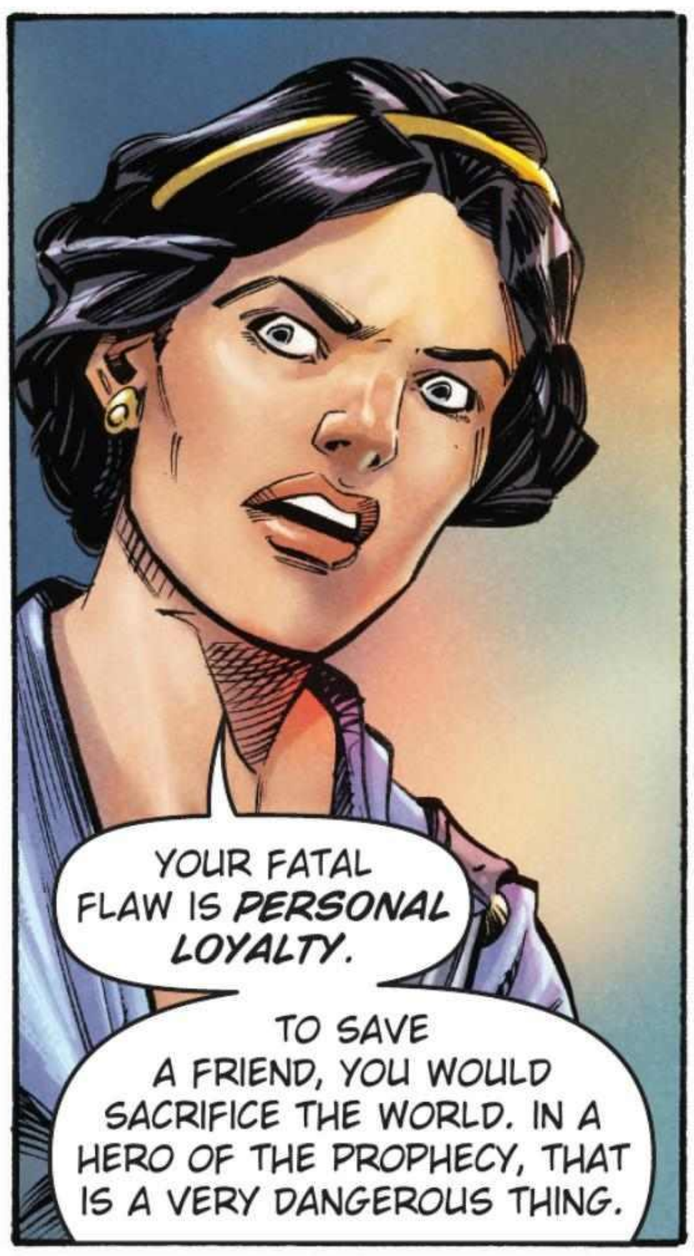




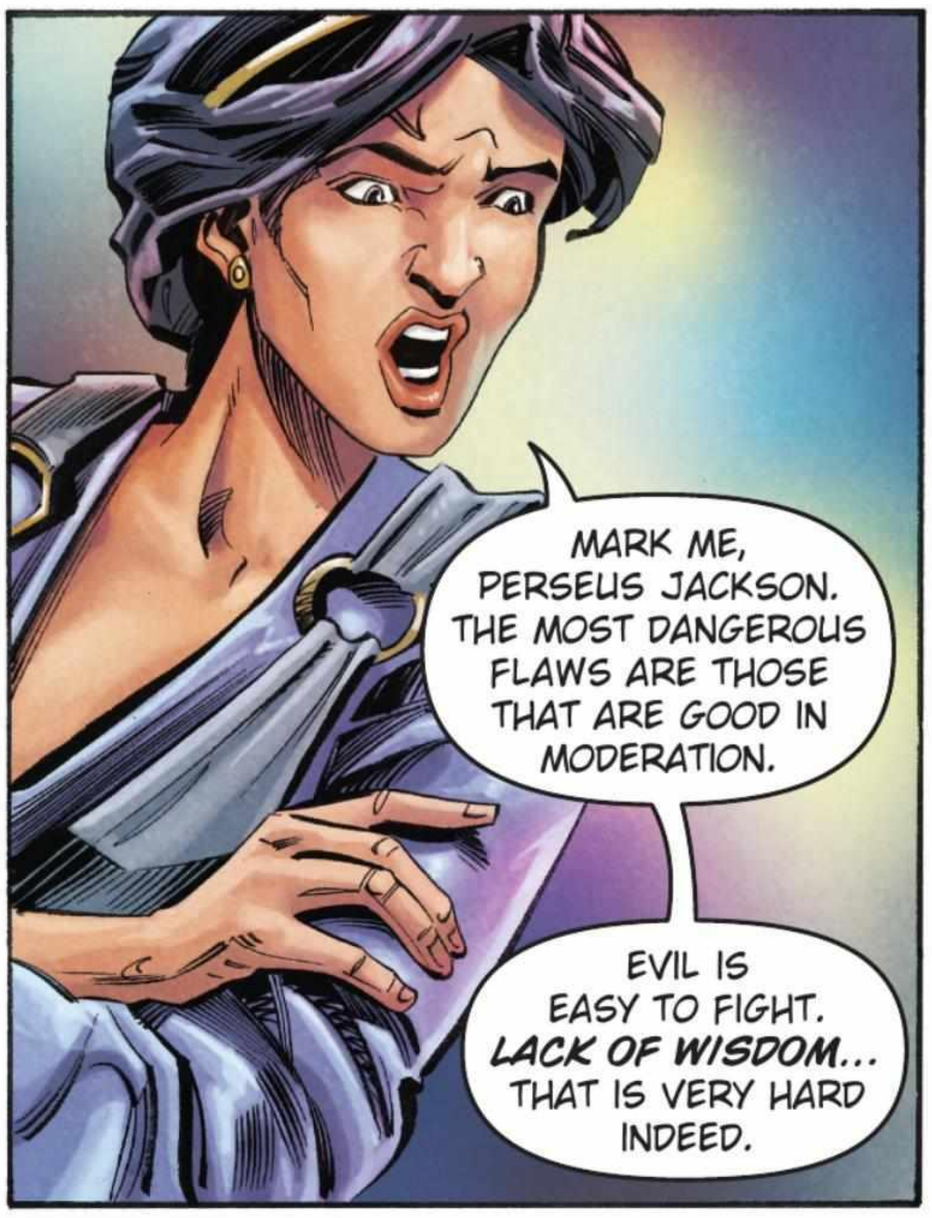

YOU DID WELL, MY SON, BUT YOUR ROLE IN THIS IS NOT YET RESOLVED. PREPARE YOURSELF. CONTINUE YOUR TRAINING, AND I KNOW YOU WILL MAKE ME PROUD.

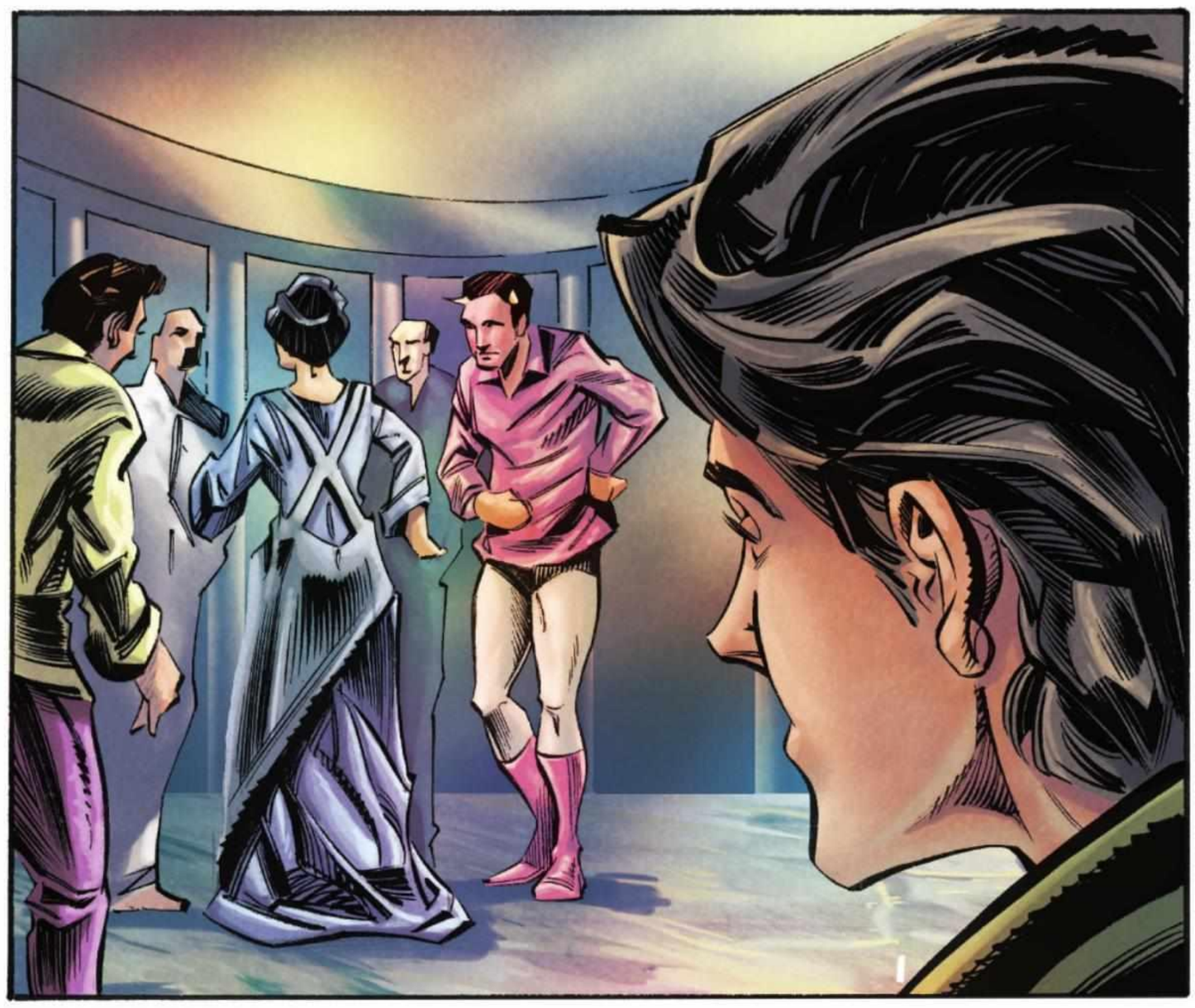

YOUR FATHER TAKES A GREAT RISK, YOU KNOW. WISE COUNSEL IS NOT ALWAYS POPULAR, BUT I SPOKE THE TRUTH.
YOU ARE DANGEROUS.


FIRST, YOUR MOTHER WAS TAKEN FROM YOU. THEN, YOUR BEST FRIEND, GROVER.
NOW MY DAUGHTER. IN EACH CASE, YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE BEEN USED TO LURE YOU INTO KRONOS'S TRAPS.
THE CROOKED ONE KNOWS HOW TO STUDY HIS ENEMIES. HE KNOWS YOUR FATAL FLAW, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT. AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO USE IT AGAINST YOU.

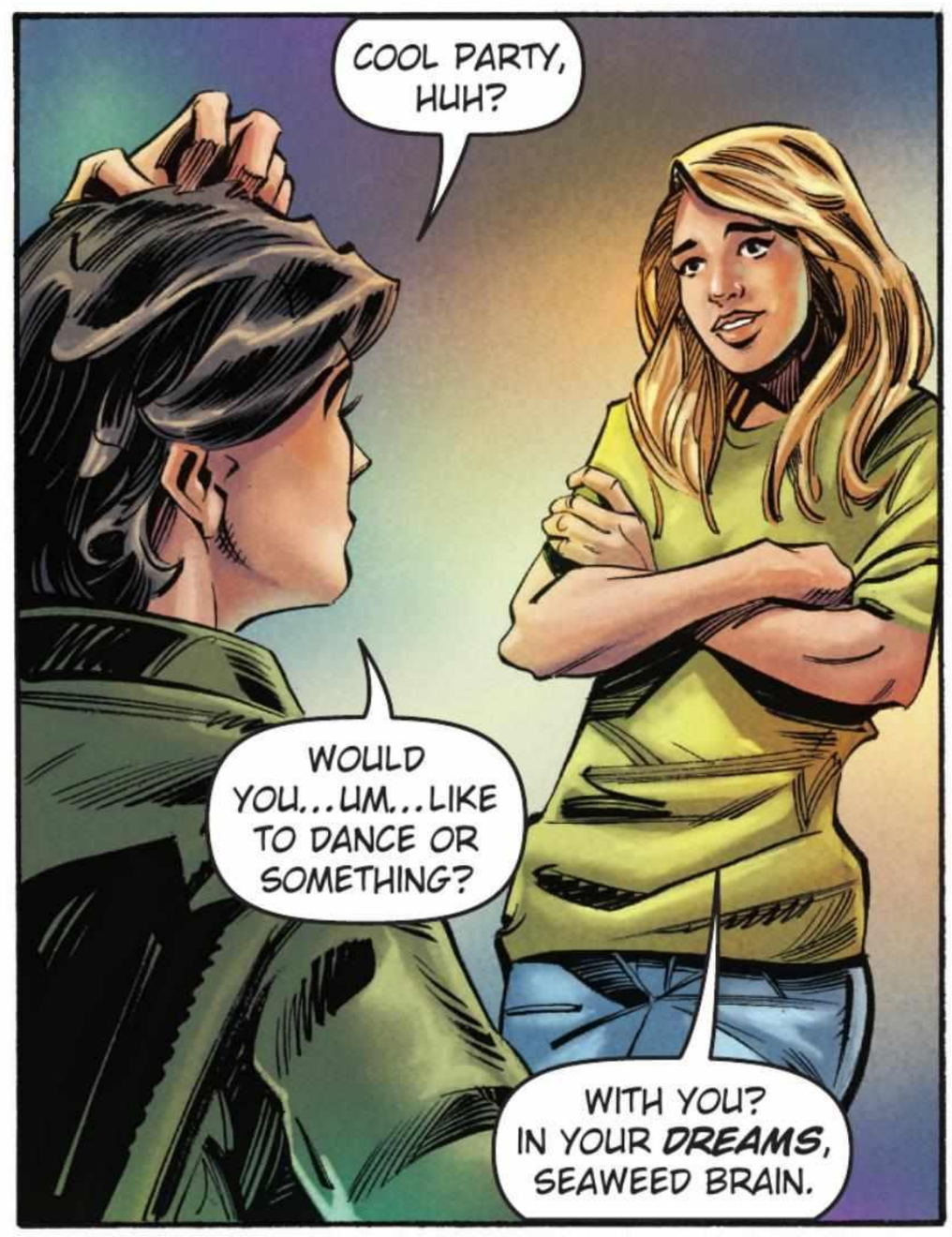

YOUR FATAL FLAW IS PERSONAL LOYALTY.
TO SAVE A FRIEND, YOU WOULD SACRIFICE THE WORLD. IN A HERO OF THE PROPHECY, THAT IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING.

IF HELPING THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT IS A FLAW, THEN YOU'RE GUILTY OF IT, TOO.
AFTER ALL, YOU WERE THE PARK RANGER AT THE HOOVER DAM, RIGHT?


MARK ME, PERSEUS JACKSON. THE MOST DANGEROUS FLAWS ARE THOSE THAT ARE GOOD IN MODERATION.
EVIL IS EASY TO FIGHT. LACK OF WISDOM... THAT IS VERY HARD INDEED.



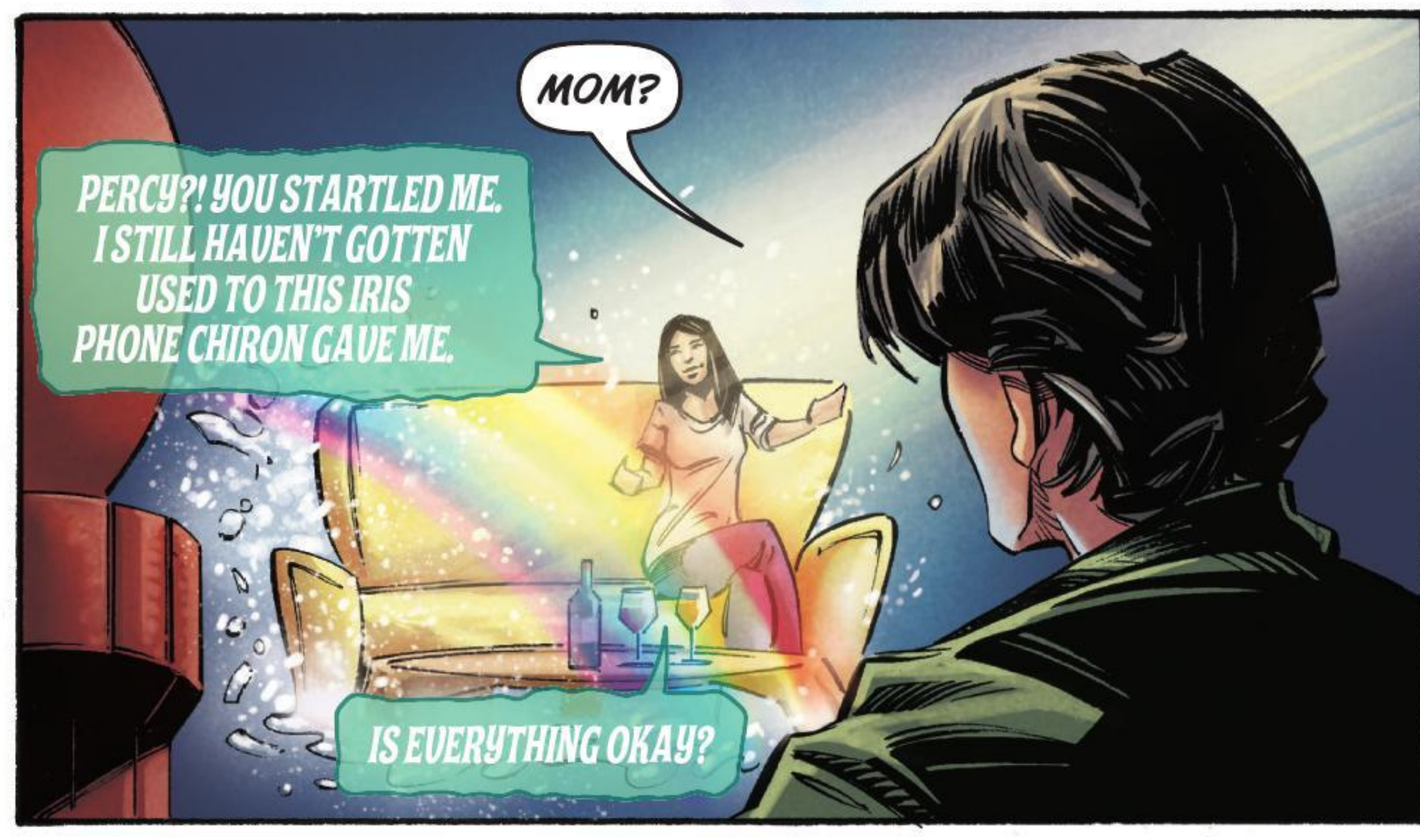
SHE WASN'T GIVING YOU A HARD TIME, WAS SHE?
NAH, IT'S OKAY. IF ANYBODY'S TWO CENTS ARE WORTH ANYTHING, IT'S THE GODDESS OF WISDOM'S....

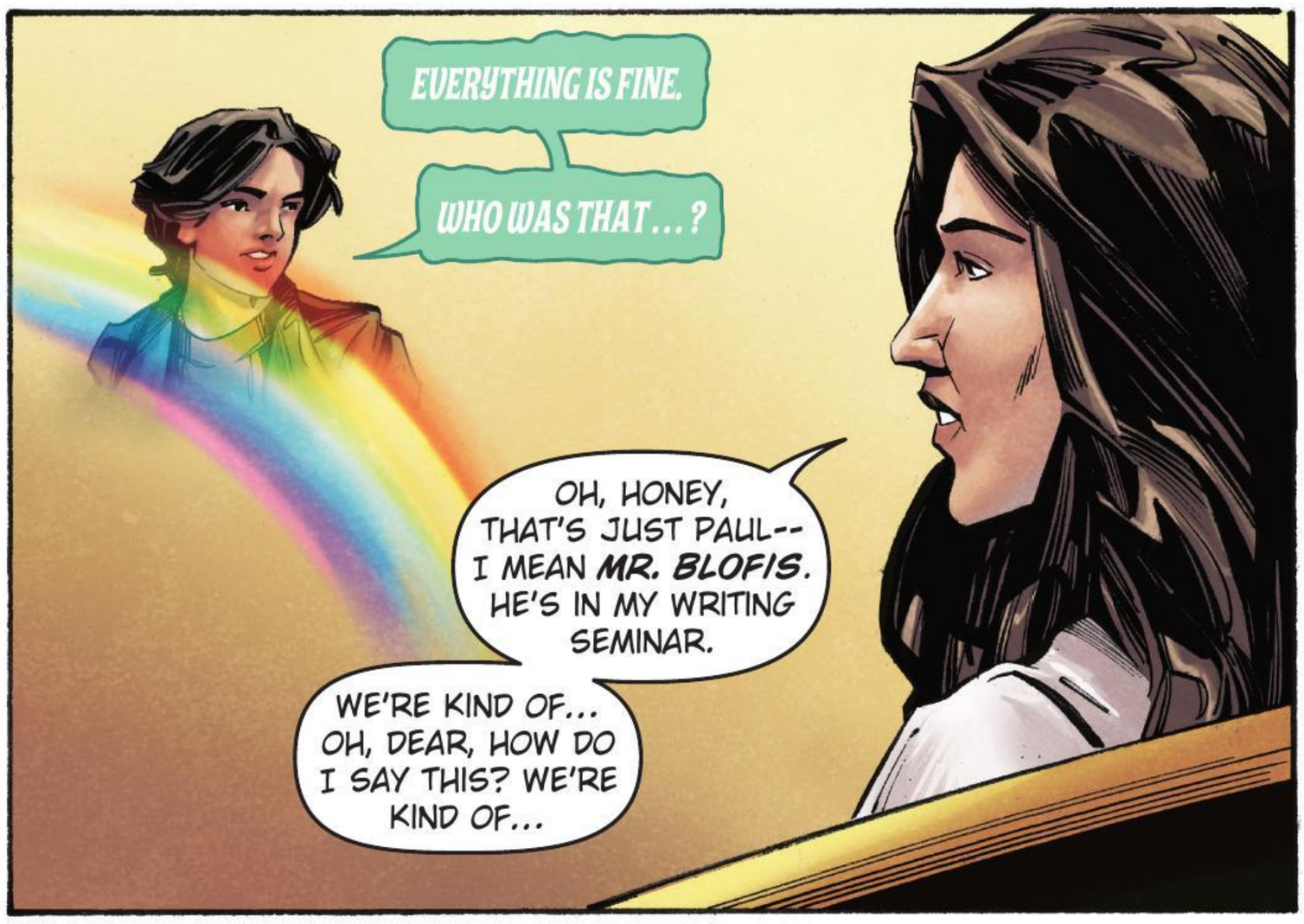

COOL PARTY, HUH?
WOULD YOU...UM...LIKE TO DANCE OR SOMETHING?
WITH YOU? IN YOUR DREAMS, SEAWEED BRAIN.

OH, COME ON.

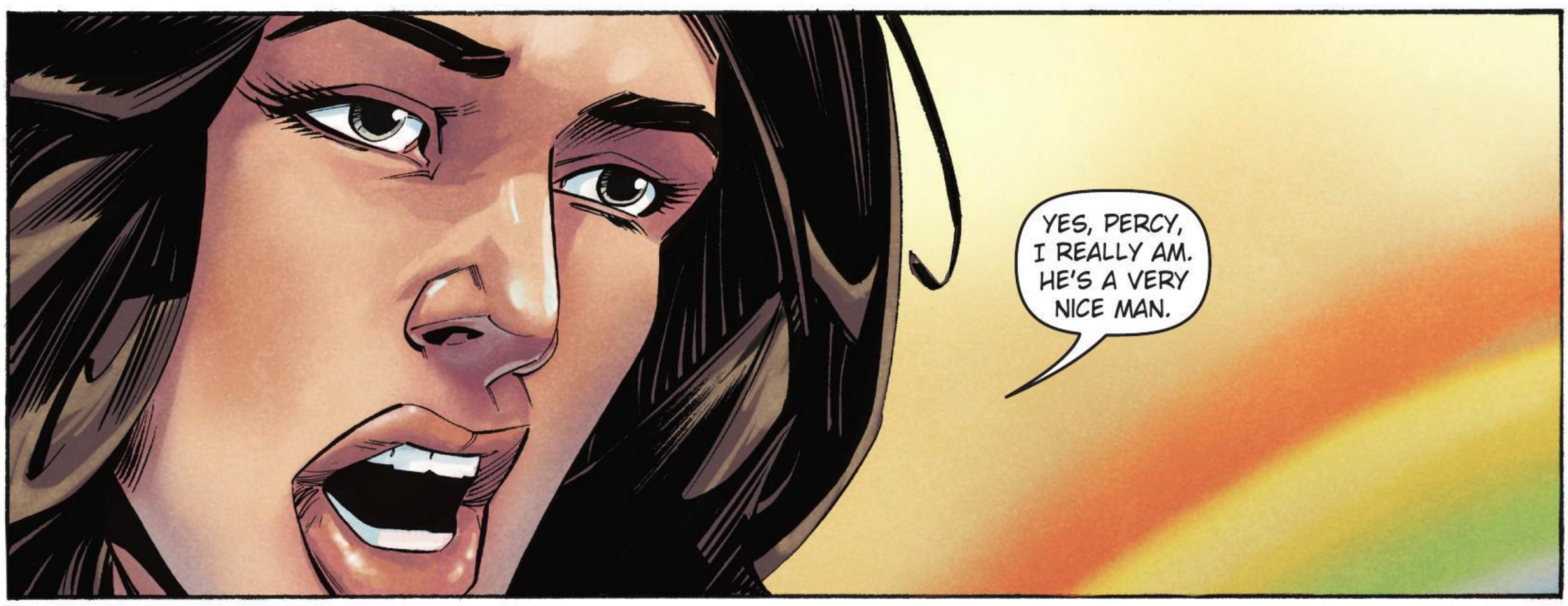
LATER, AT CAMP HALF-BLOOD.
SALLY JACKSON. MANHATTAN'S UPPER EAST SIDE.
PLEASE HOLD.

HA-HA! SALLY, YOU'RE A RIOT! I'LL GO GET SOME MORE WINE FROM THE KITCHEN.
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE.

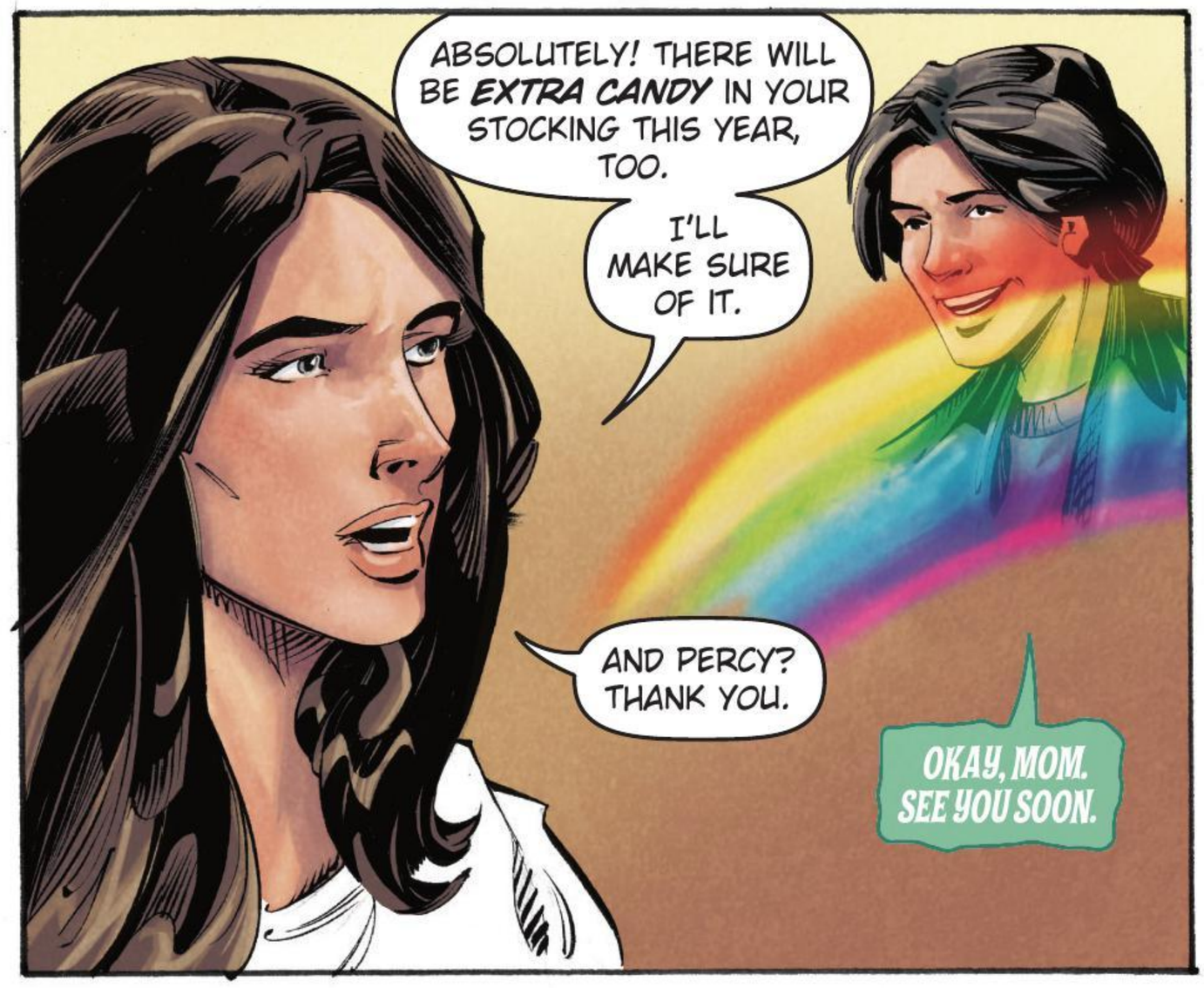

MOM?
PERCY?! YOU STARTLED ME. I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO THIS IRIS PHONE CHIRON GAVE ME.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

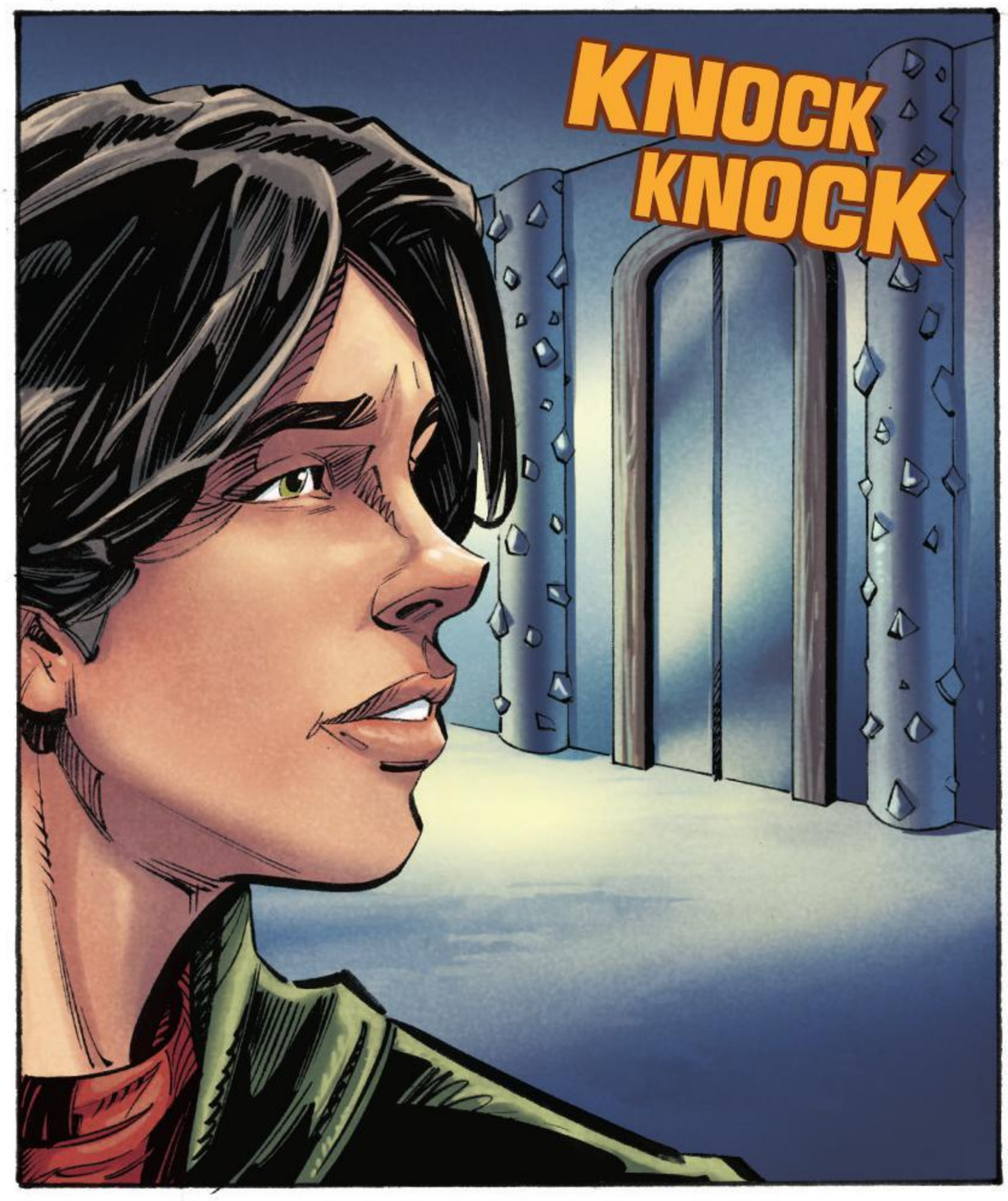

EVERYTHING IS FINE.
WHO WAS THAT...?
OH, HONEY, THAT'S JUST PAUL-- I MEAN MR. BLOFIS. HE'S IN MY WRITING SEMINAR.
WE'RE KIND OF... OH, DEAR, HOW DO I SAY THIS? WE'RE KIND OF...

MOM, ARE YOU HAPPY?


YES, PERCY, I REALLY AM. HE'S A VERY NICE MAN.

THEN DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MOM. I LIKE HIM BETTER THAN GABE ALREADY.
I'LL SEE YOU FOR CHRISTMAS?


ABSOLUTELY! THERE WILL BE EXTRA CANDY IN YOUR STOCKING THIS YEAR, TOO.
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.
AND PERCY? THANK YOU.
OKAY, MOM. SEE YOU SOON.

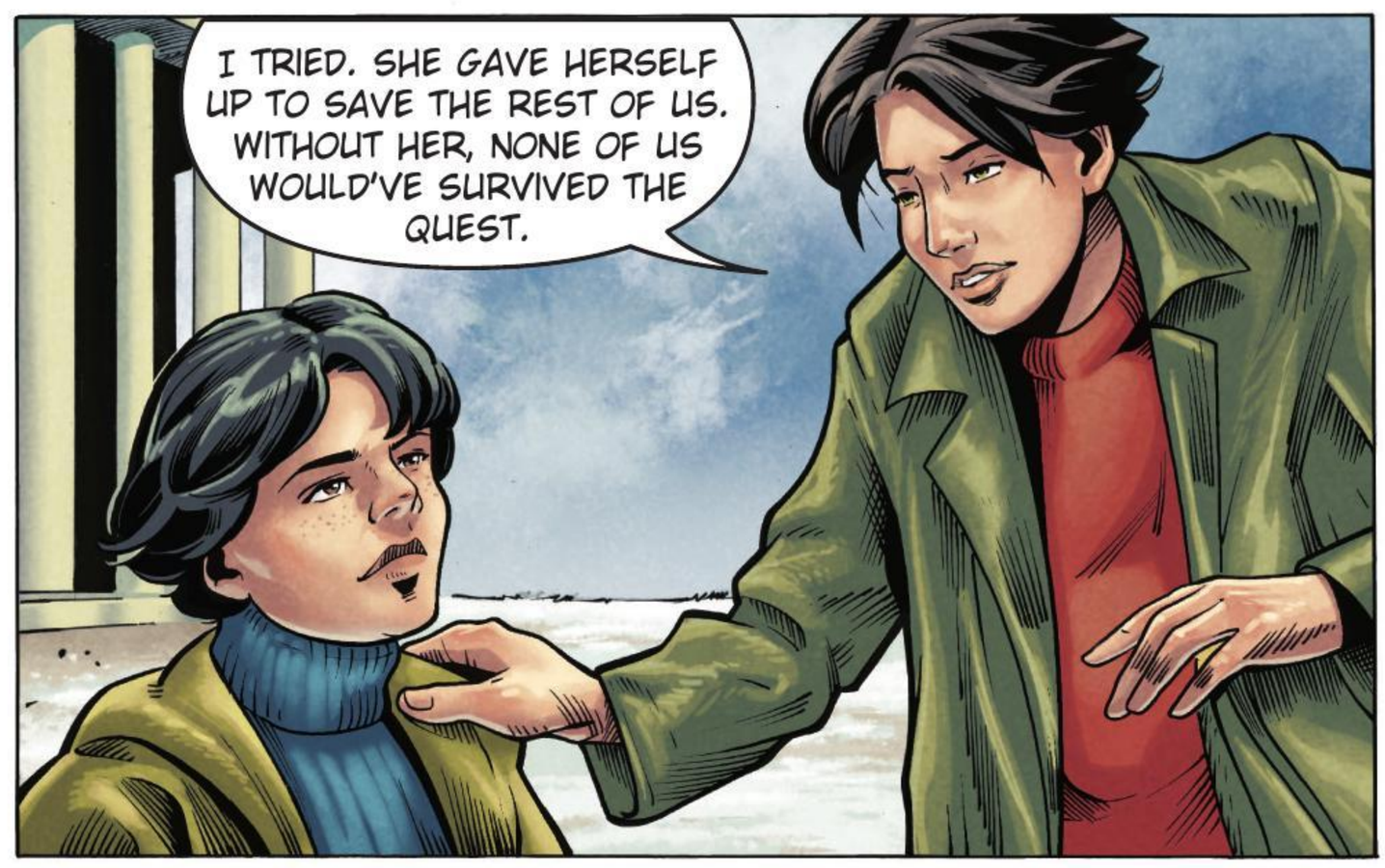

KNOCK KNOCK

HEY! -:huff huff:- I HEARD YOU WERE BACK. WHERE'S BIANCA? I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT HER ADVENTURE!

NICO, WE NEED TO TALK....

SHE WANTED YOU TO HAVE IT. HER LAST THOUGHT WAS OF YOU.

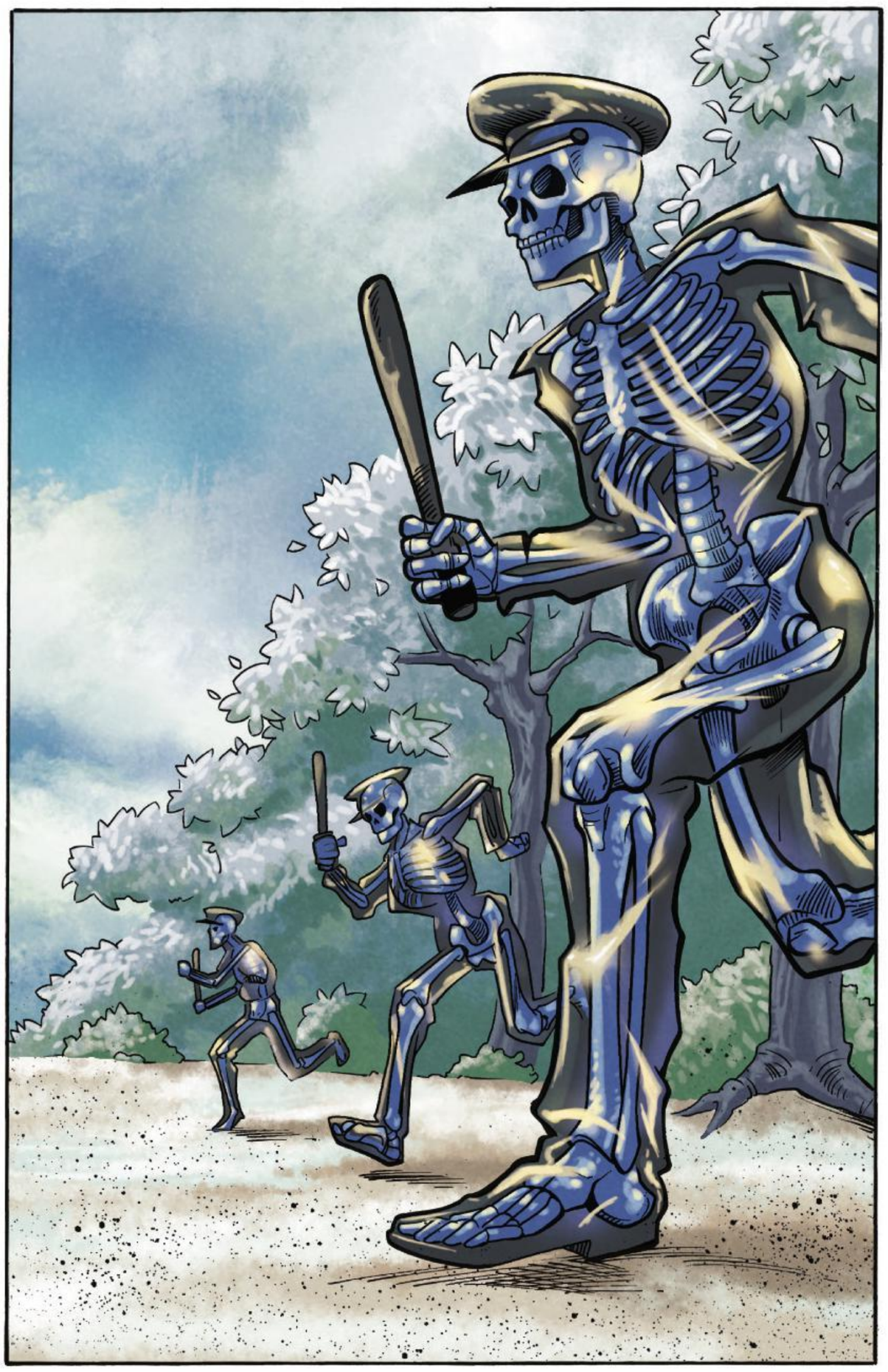
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD PROTECT HER.

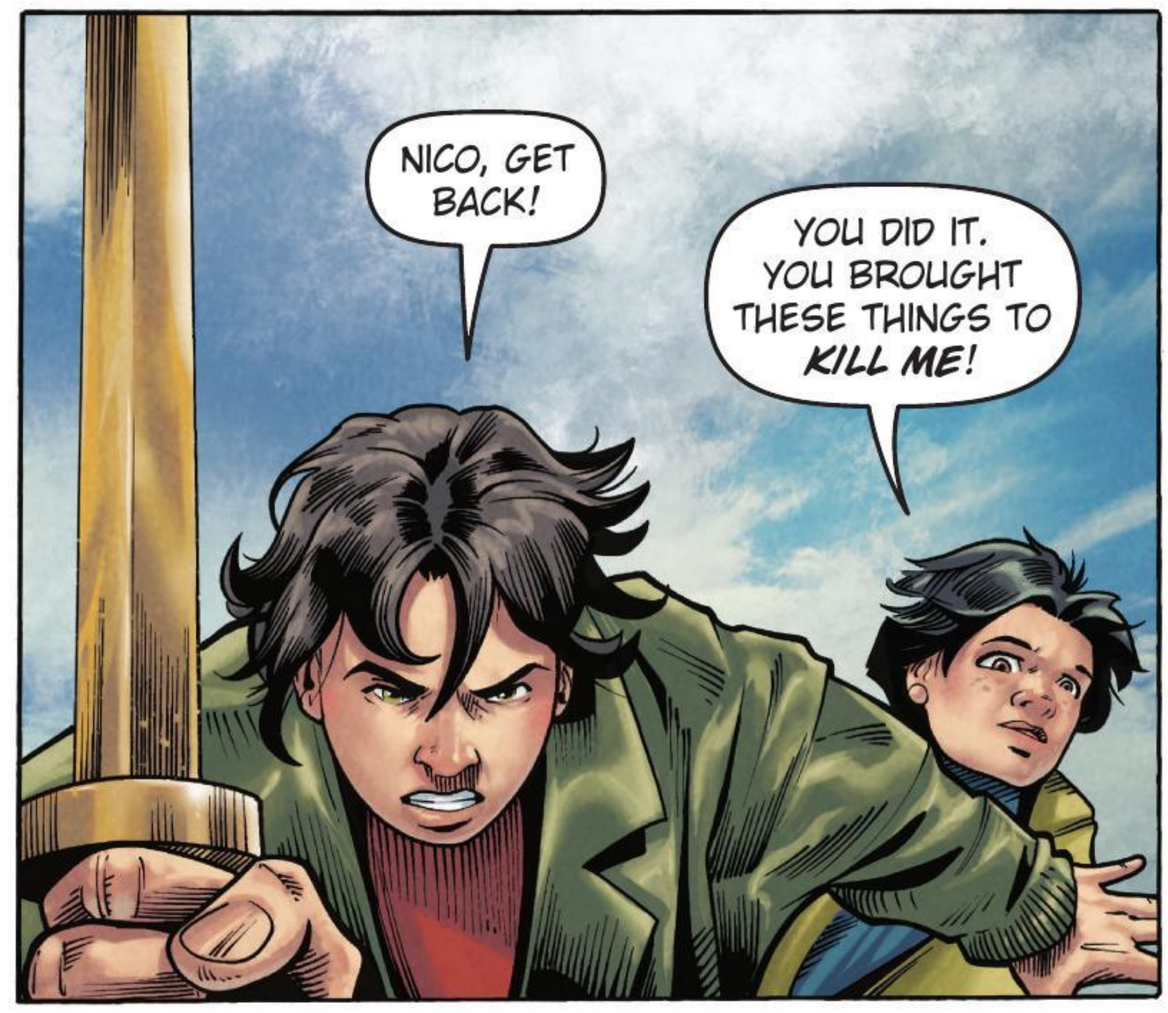

I TRIED. SHE GAVE HERSELF UP TO SAVE THE REST OF US. WITHOUT HER, NONE OF US WOULD'VE SURVIVED THE QUEST.

YOU PROMISED! I NEVER SHOULD'VE TRUSTED YOU. MY NIGHTMARES WERE RIGHT!
NIGHTMARES? WHAT NIGHTMARES?
SHE'S IN THE FIELDS OF ASPHODEL, STANDING BEFORE THE JUDGES RIGHT NOW, BEING EVALUATED. I CAN FEEL IT.

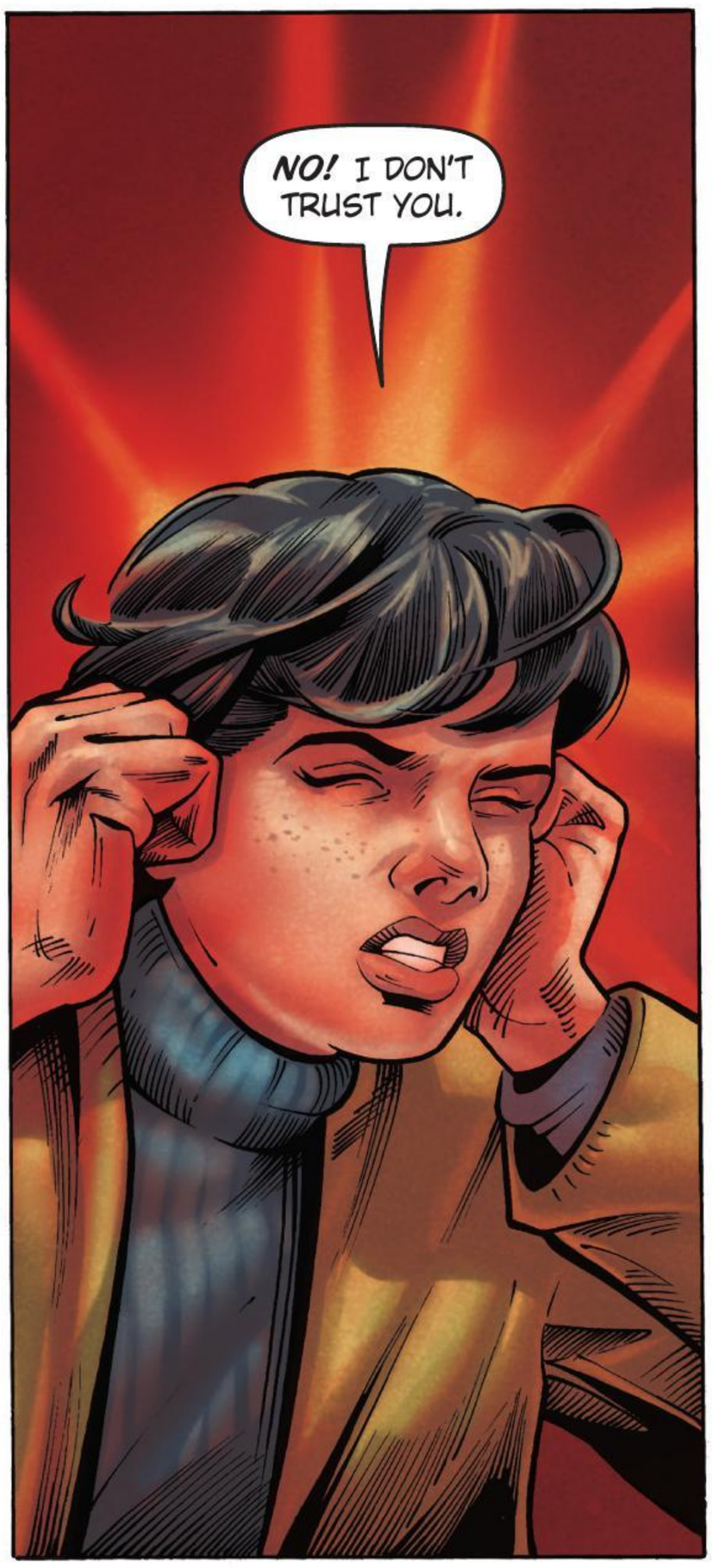
YOU CAN FEEL IT?
OH, NO. NICO...I THINK I KNOW WHO YOUR DAD IS.

CHITTER CHITTER

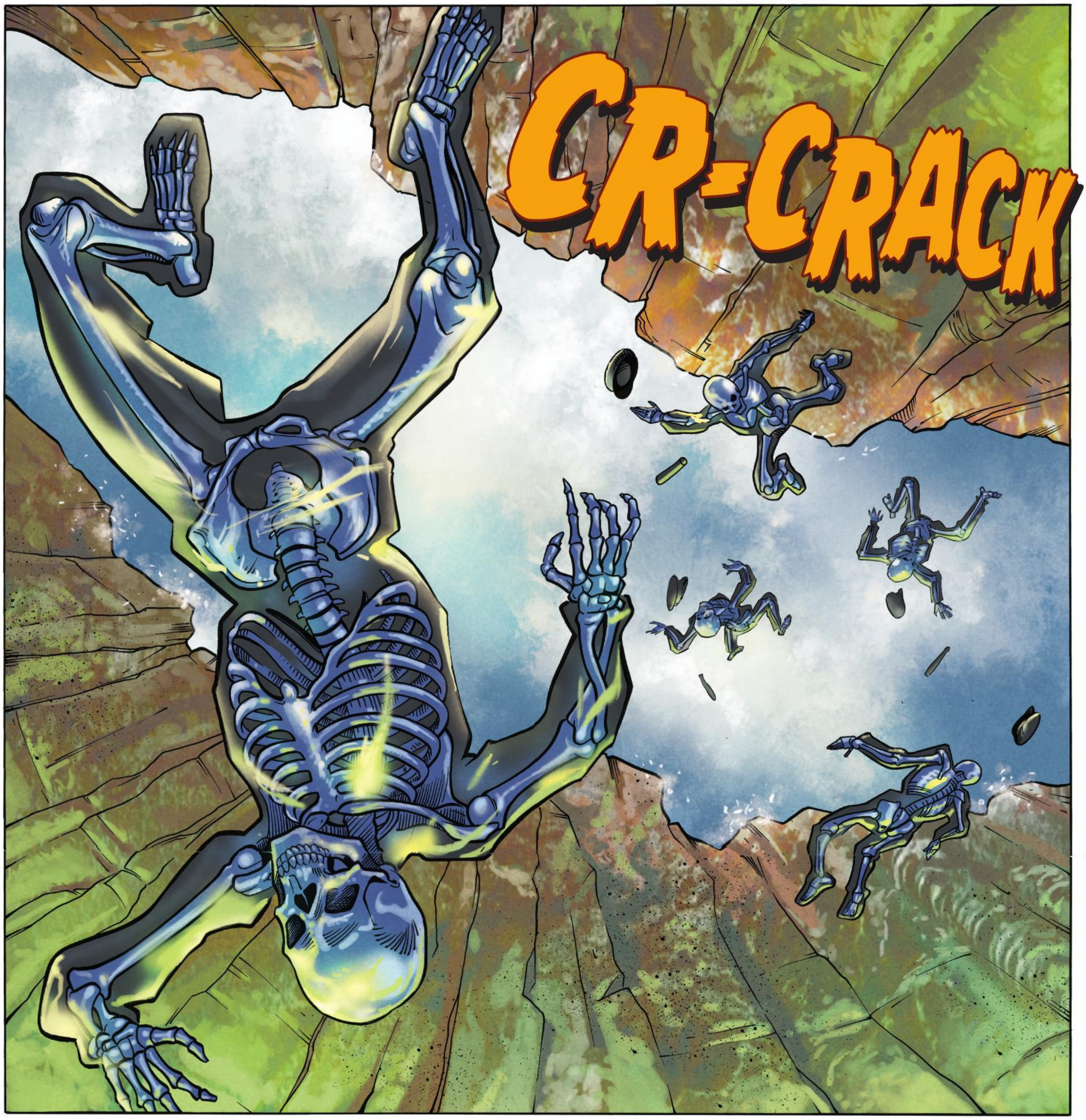


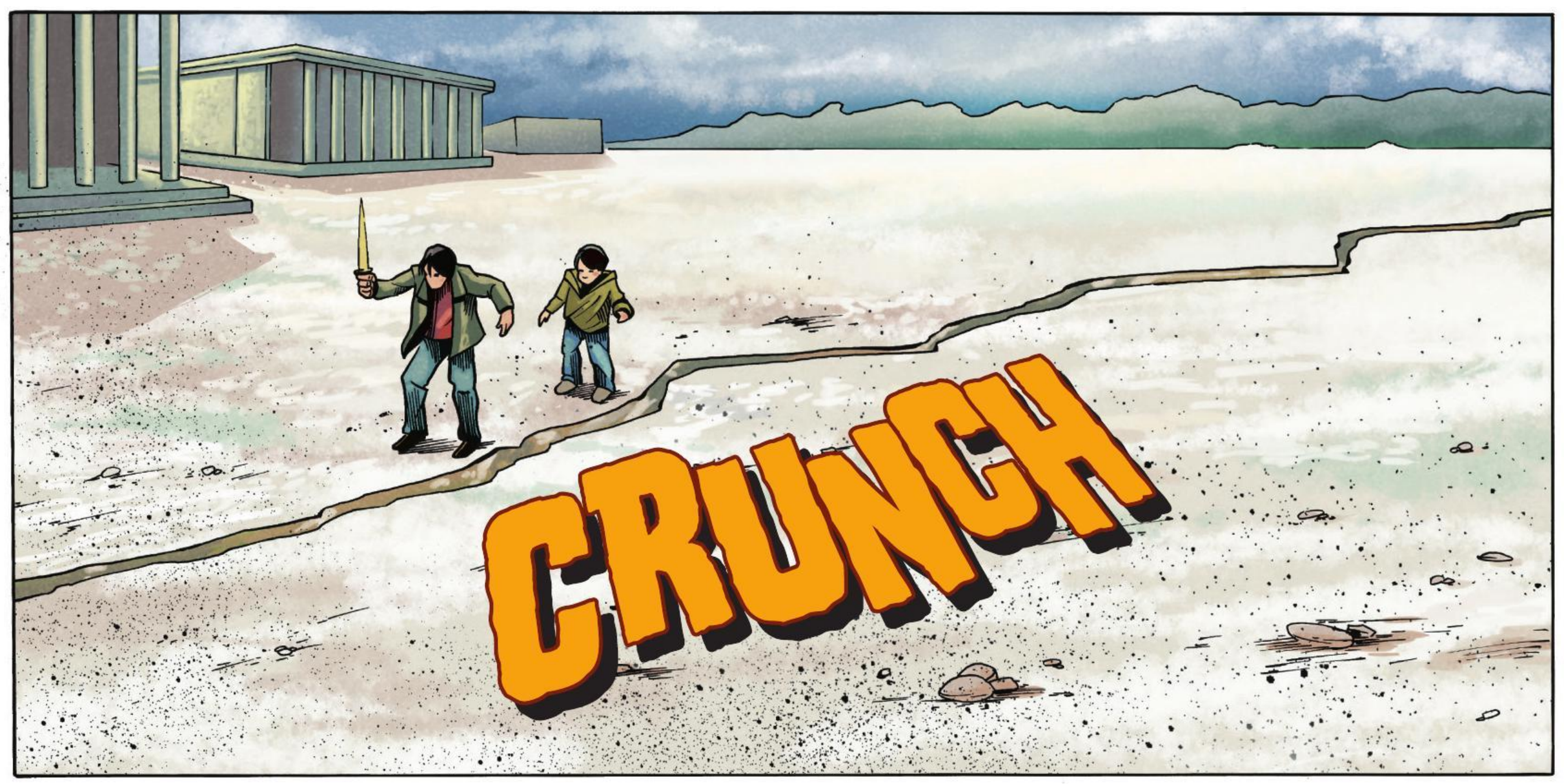

NICO, GET BACK!
YOU DID IT. YOU BROUGHT THESE THINGS TO KILL ME!

WHAT? NO! I MEAN, YEAH, THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE, BUT I'M THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER.
YOU HAVE TO RUN!


NO! I DON'T TRUST YOU.

GO AWAY, MONSTERS!
RMBLLL

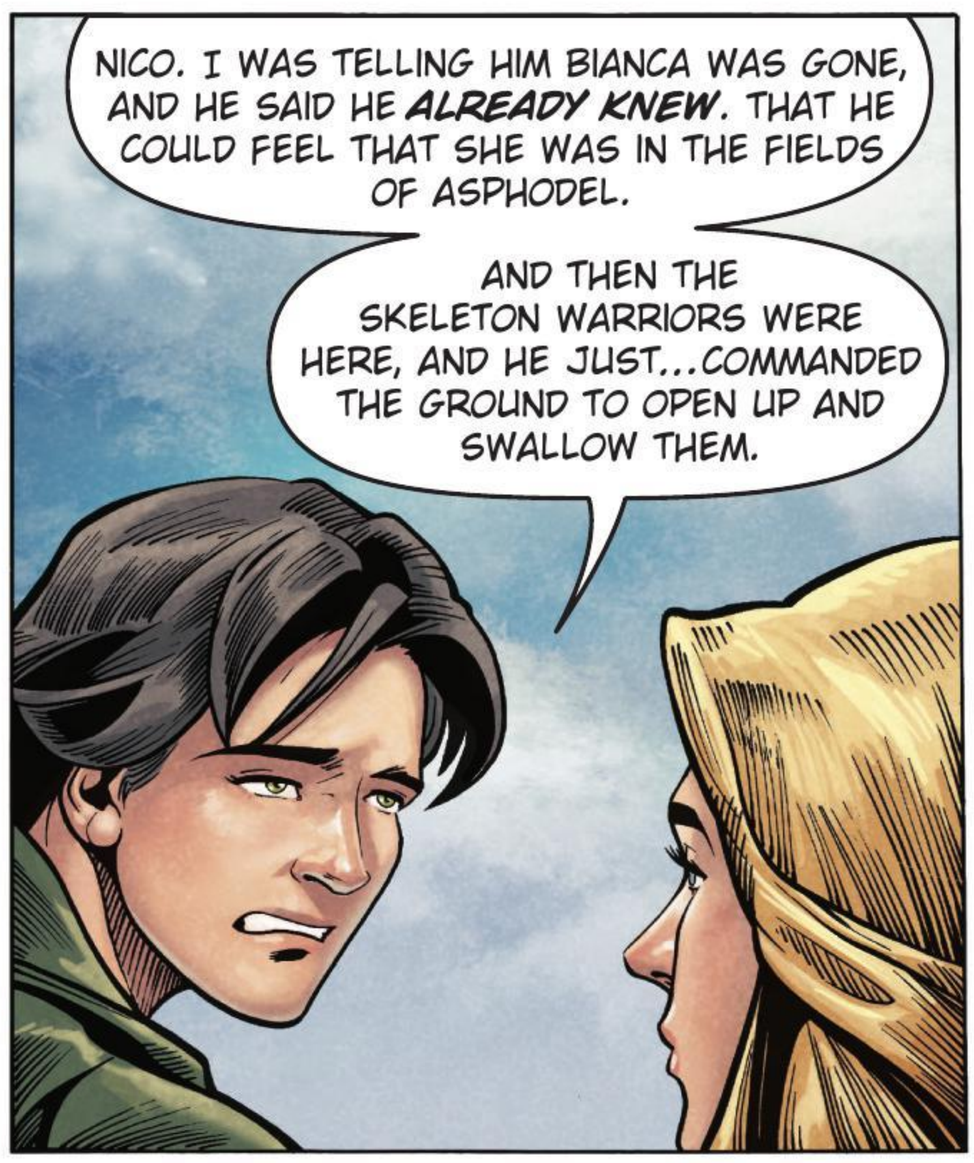

CR-CRACK

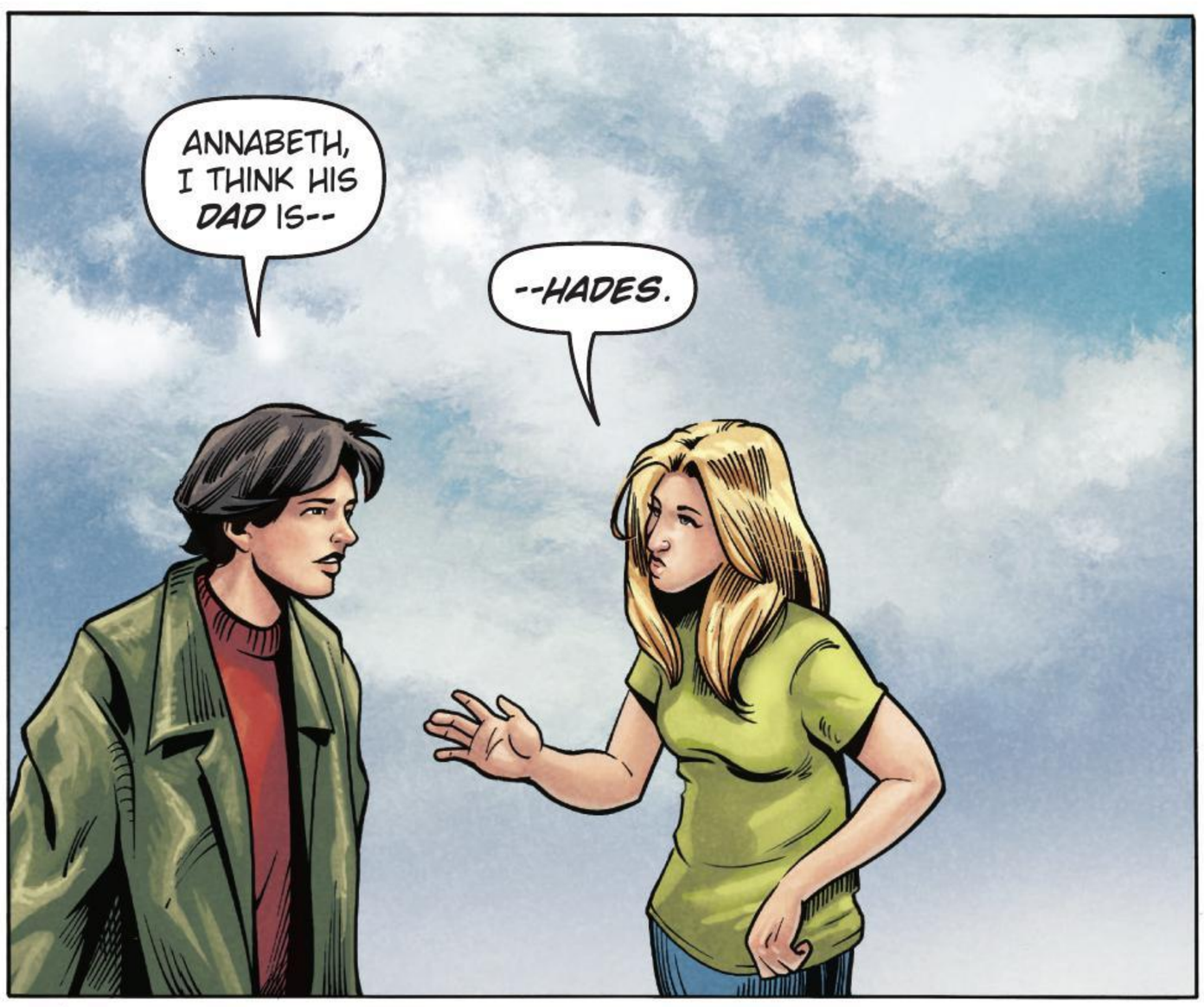

CRUNCH

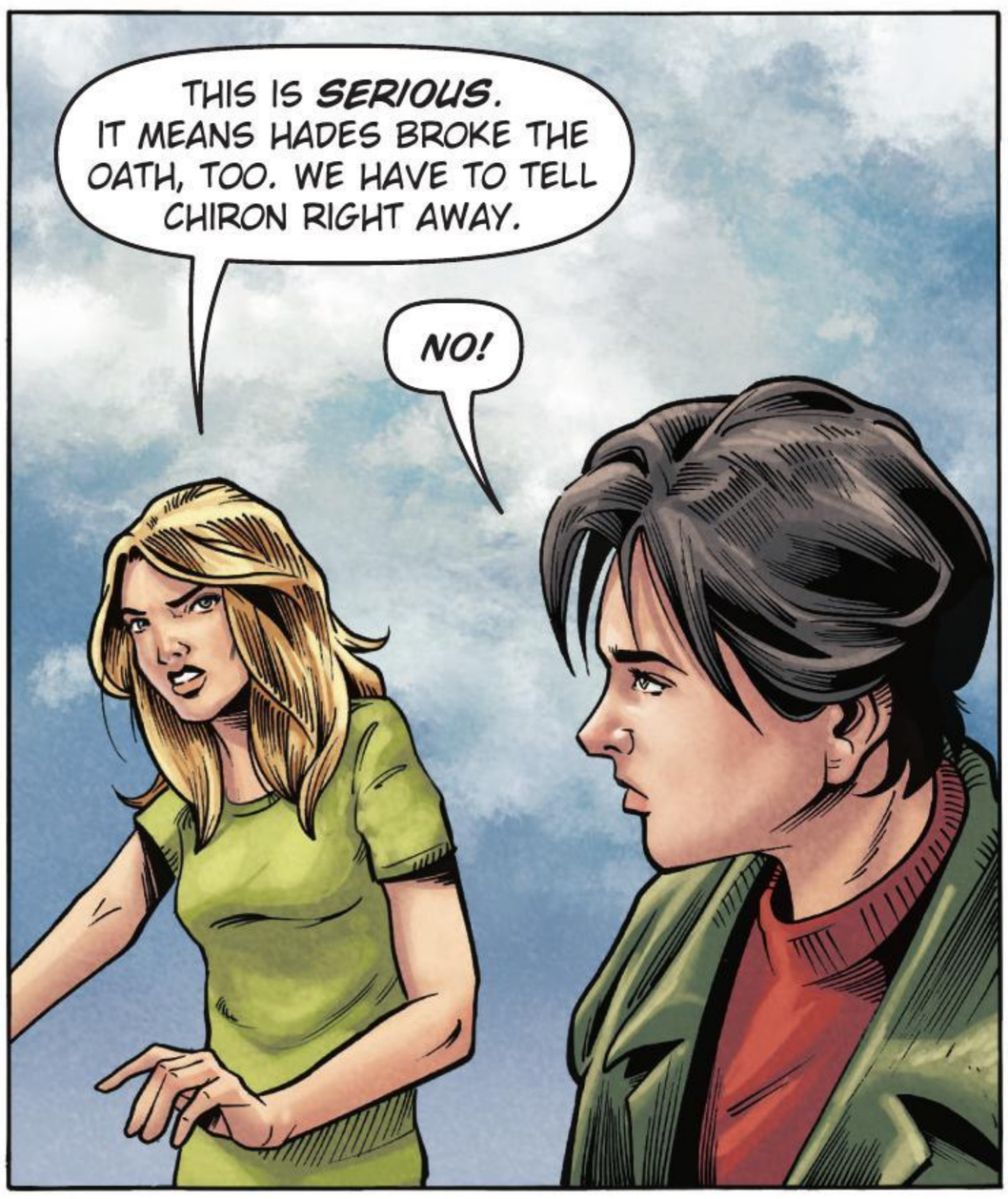
HOW DID YOU DO THAT...?
I WISH YOU'D FALLEN IN, TOO. I HATE YOU!

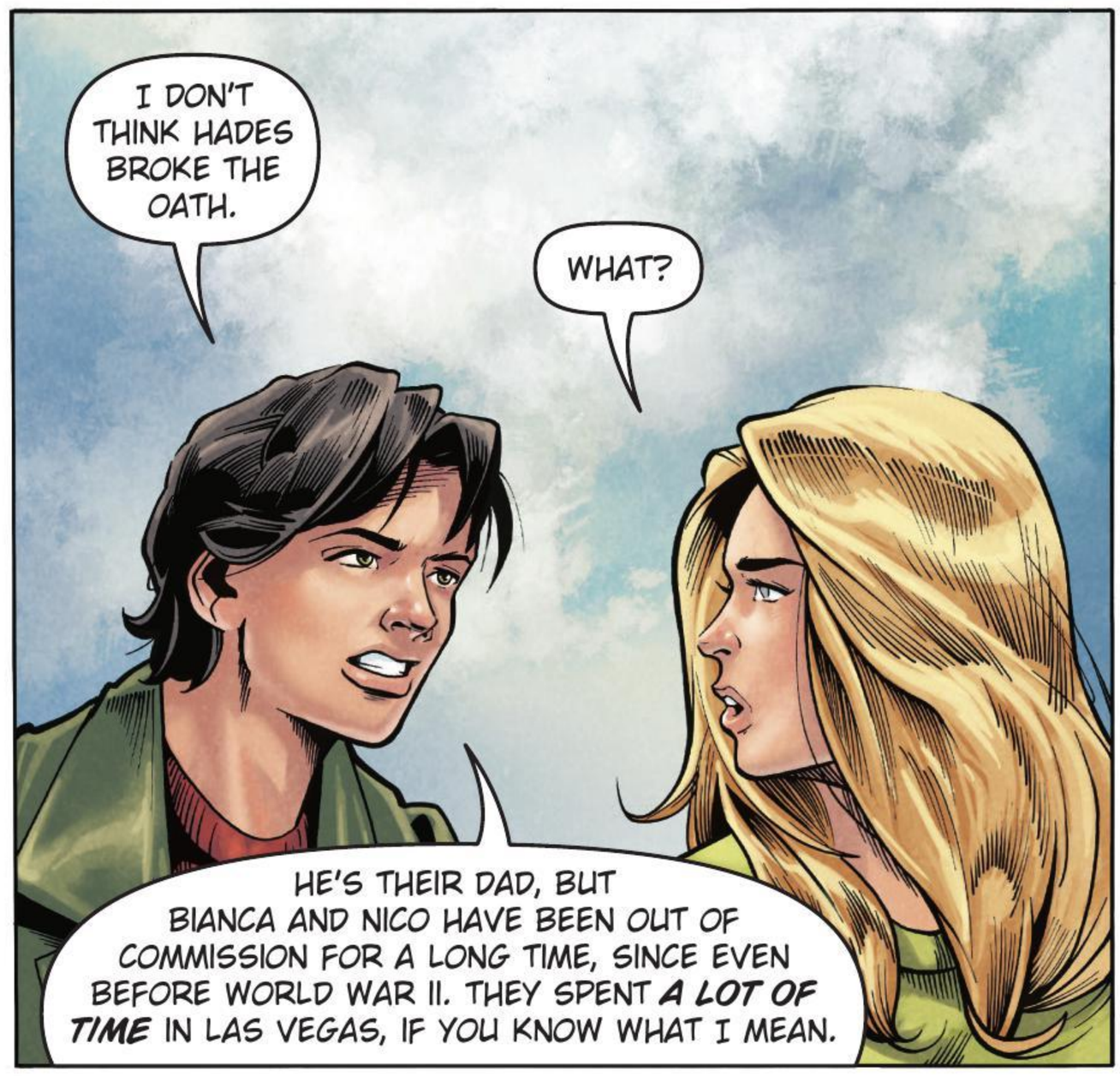
NICO! WAIT!

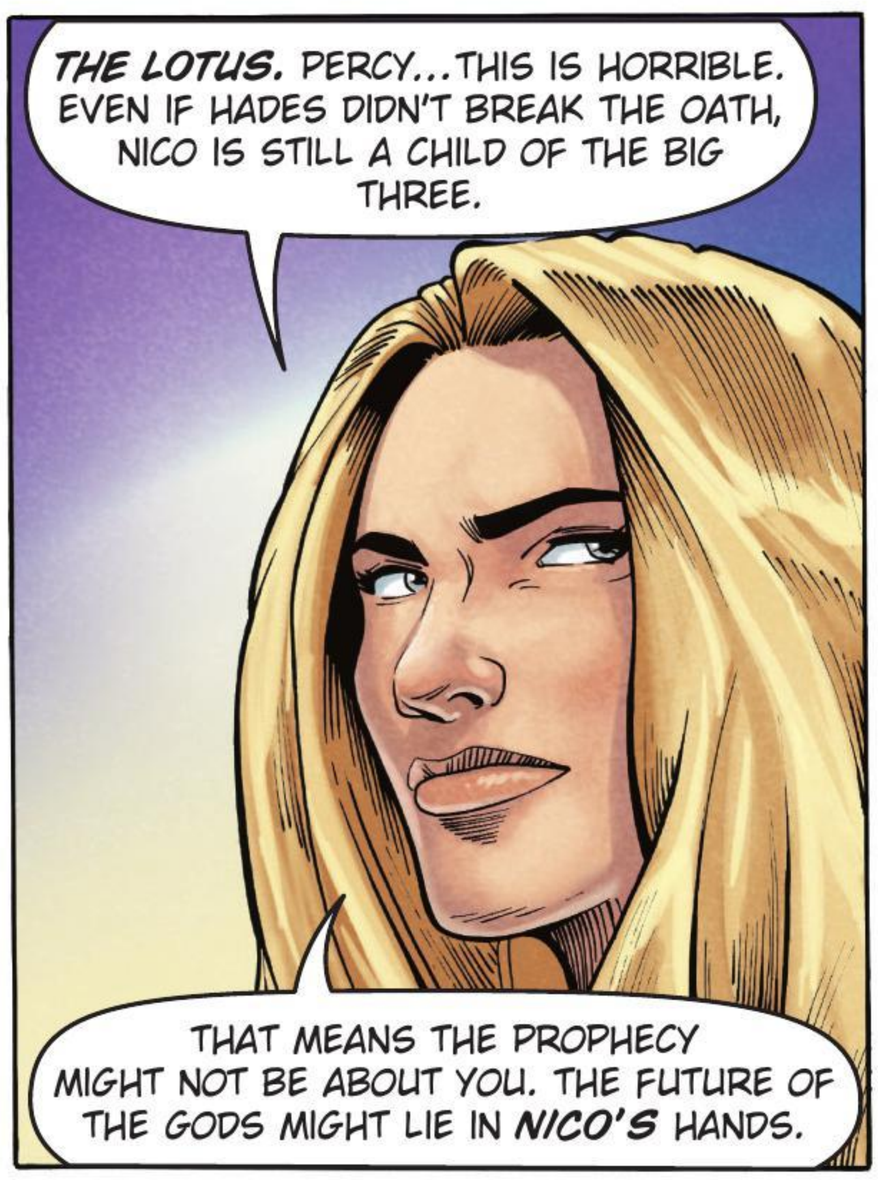
PERCY! I WAS IN MY CABIN, AND I THOUGHT I FELT AN EARTHQUAKE. WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT EARLIER?
SEE WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


NICO. I WAS TELLING HIM BIANCA WAS GONE, AND HE SAID HE ALREADY KNEW. THAT HE COULD FEEL THAT SHE WAS IN THE FIELDS OF ASPHODEL.
AND THEN THE SKELETON WARRIORS WERE HERE, AND HE JUST...COMMANDED THE GROUND TO OPEN UP AND SWALLOW THEM.

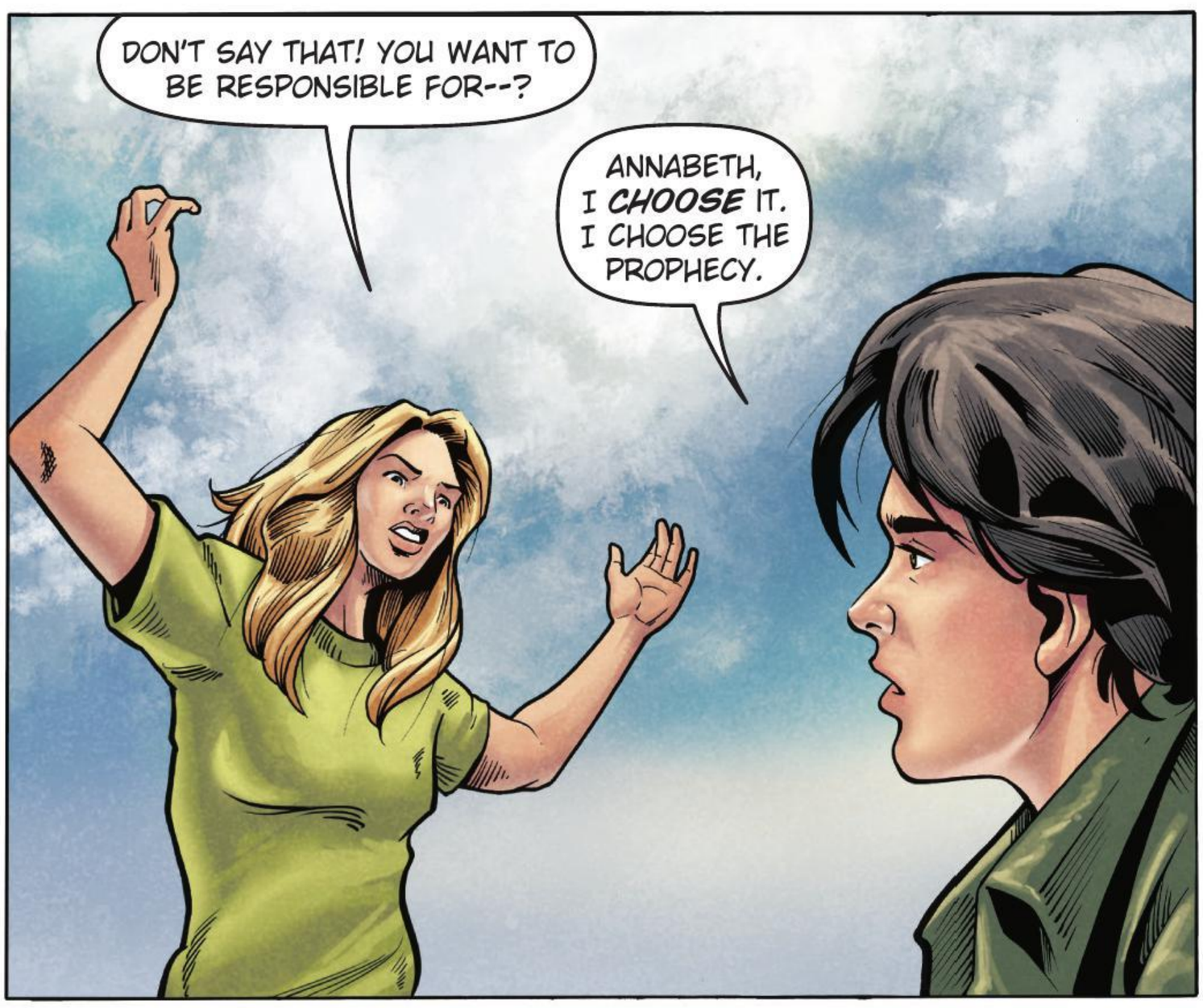

ANNABETH, I THINK HIS DAD IS--
--HADES.


THIS IS SERIOUS. IT MEANS HADES BROKE THE OATH, TOO. WE HAVE TO TELL CHIRON RIGHT AWAY.
NO!

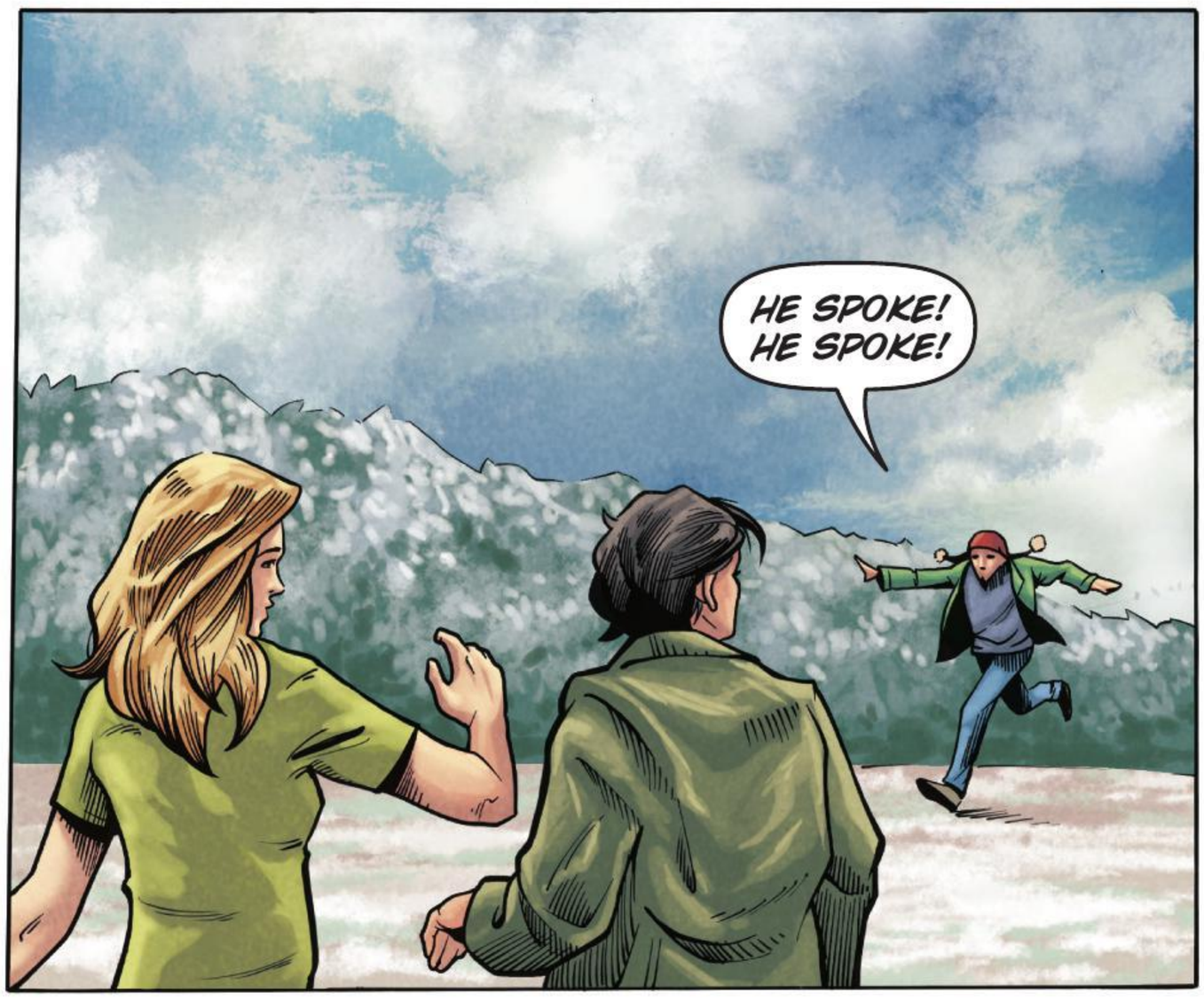

I DON'T THINK HADES BROKE THE OATH.
WHAT?
HE'S THEIR DAD, BUT BIANCA AND NICO HAVE BEEN OUT OF COMMISSION FOR A LONG TIME, SINCE EVEN BEFORE WORLD WAR II. THEY SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN LAS VEGAS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

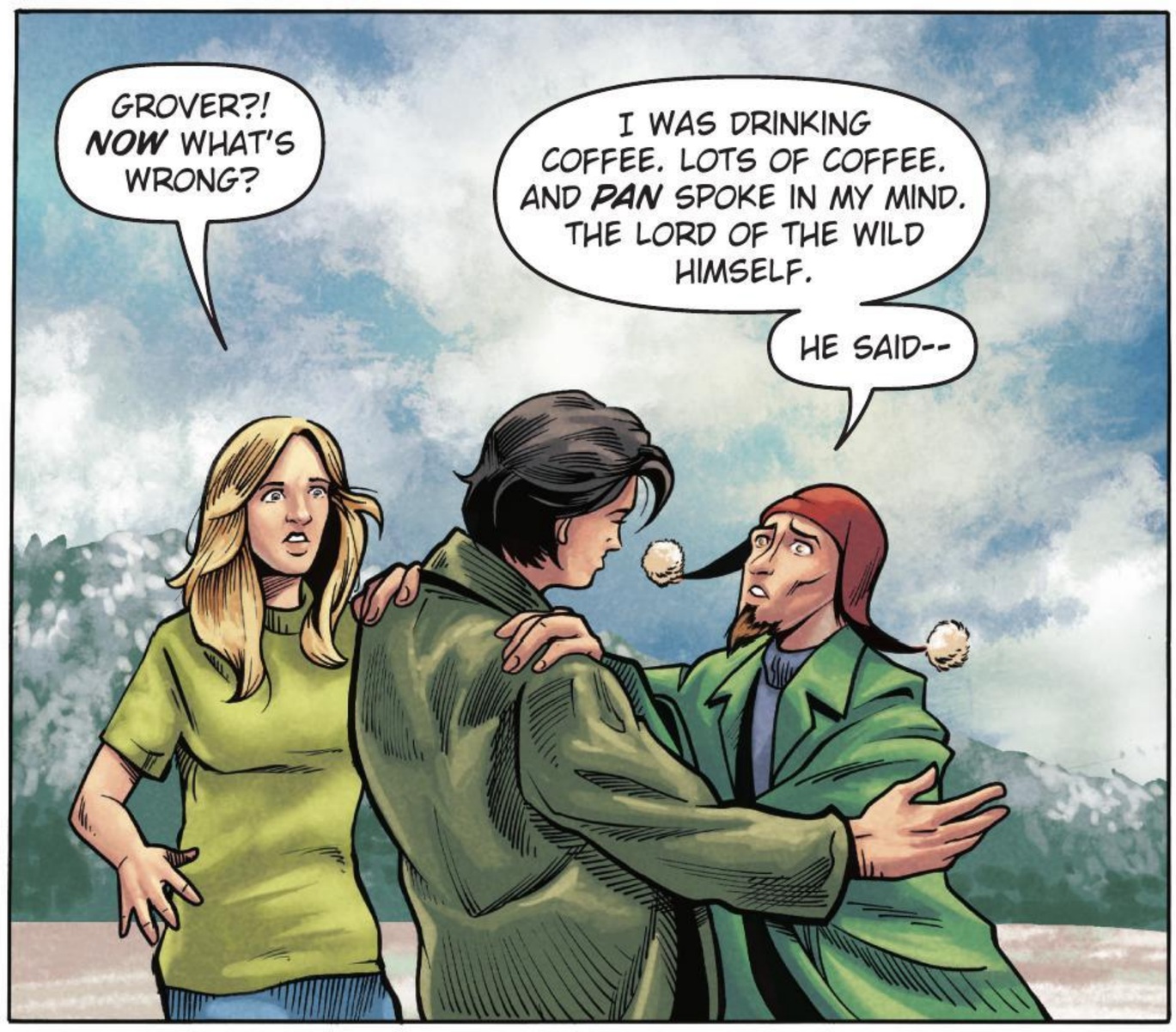

THE LOTUS. PERCY...THIS IS HORRIBLE. EVEN IF HADES DIDN'T BREAK THE OATH, NICO IS STILL A CHILD OF THE BIG THREE.
THAT MEANS THE PROPHECY MIGHT NOT BE ABOUT YOU. THE FUTURE OF THE GODS MIGHT LIE IN NICO'S HANDS.

NO. I CAN'T LET NICO BE IN ANY MORE DANGER. I OWE THAT MUCH TO BIANCA.
THE PROPHECY WILL BE ABOUT ME.


DON'T SAY THAT! YOU WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR--?
ANNABETH, I CHOOSE IT. I CHOOSE THE PROPHECY.

-sigh- ALL RIGHT. I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, SEAWEED BRAIN.
WE HAVE TO TELL CHIRON SOMETHING, THOUGH.
LET'S GO TELL HIM NICO GOT UPSET ABOUT BIANCA AND RAN OFF, AND NOW WE CAN'T FIND HIM.


HE SPOKE! HE SPOKE!


GROVER?! NOW WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS DRINKING COFFEE. LOTS OF COFFEE. AND PAN SPOKE IN MY MIND. THE LORD OF THE WILD HIMSELF.
HE SAID--

--"I AWAIT YOU."
END OF BOOK 3.

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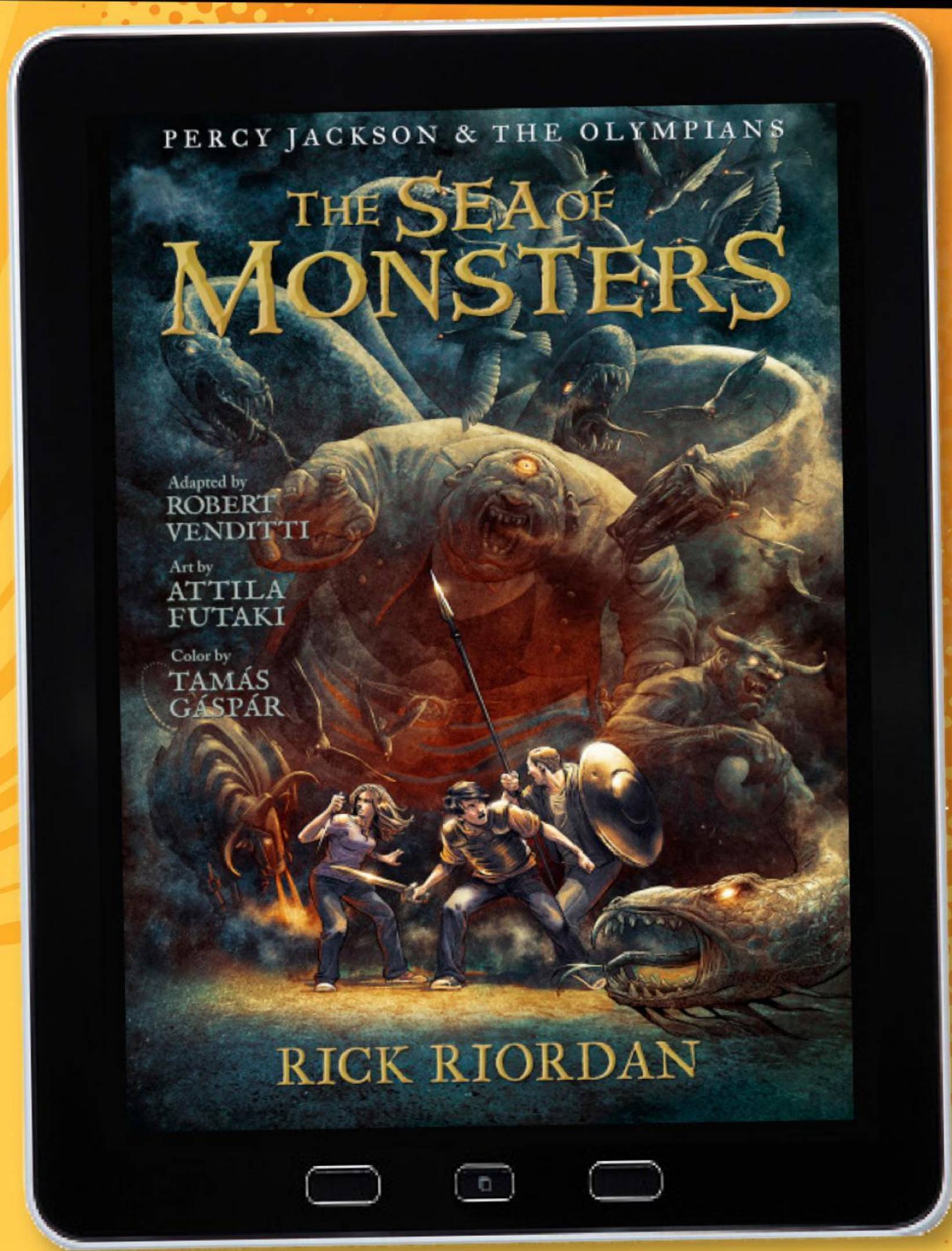

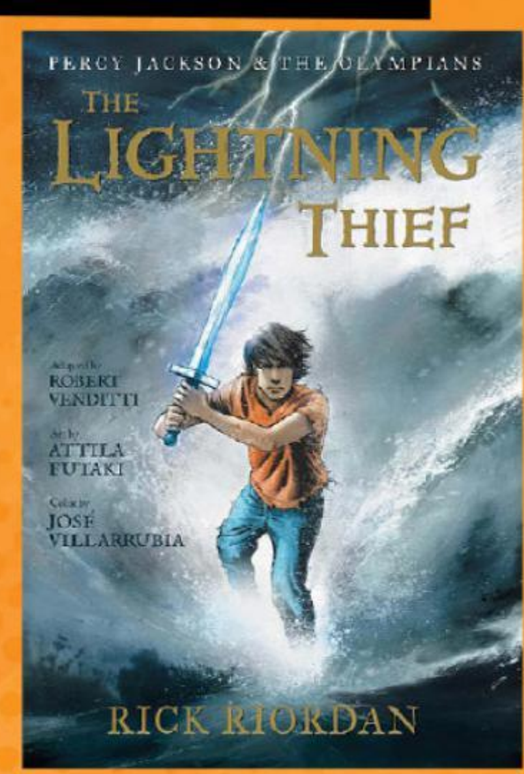

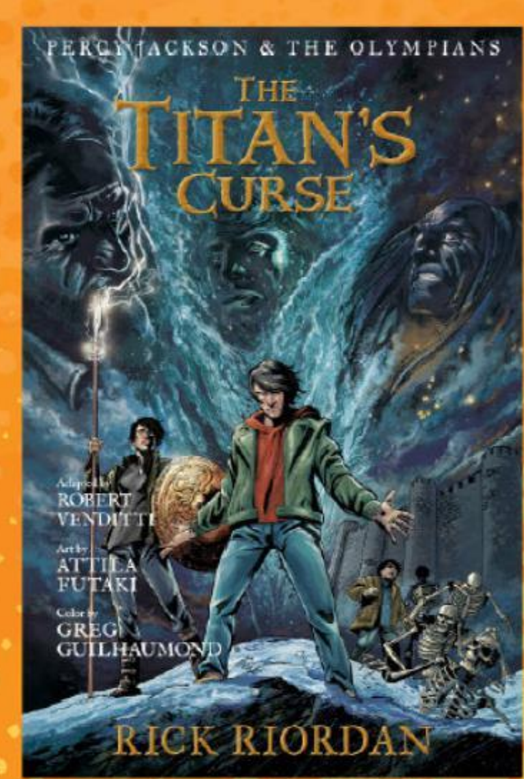

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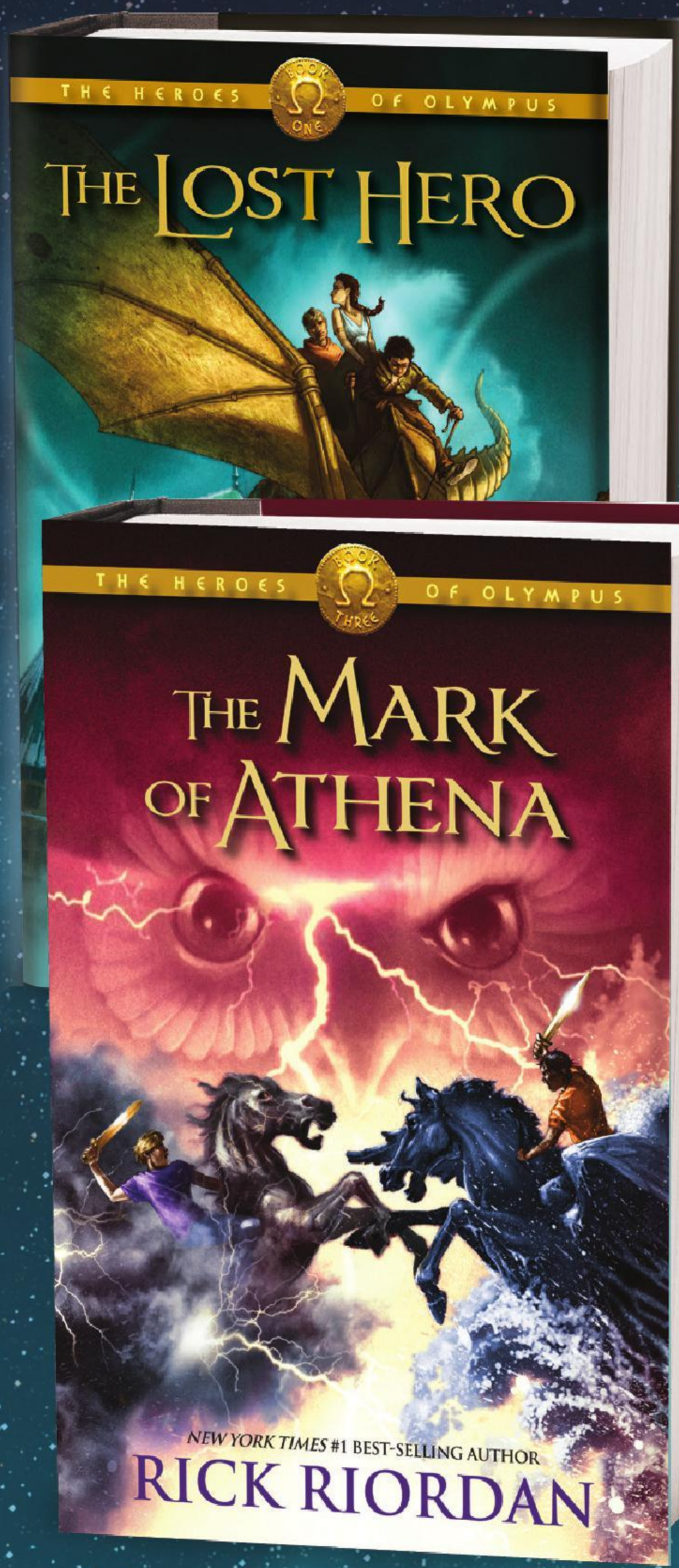

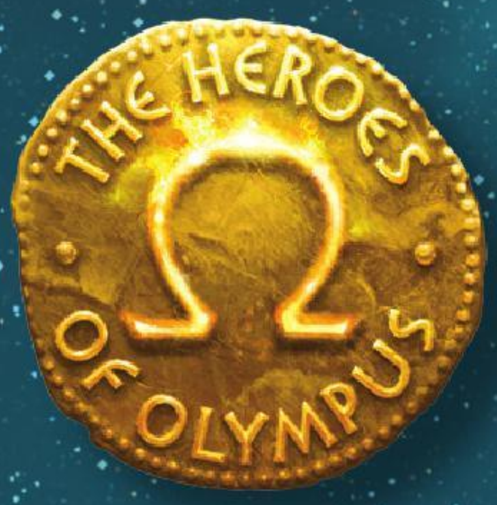

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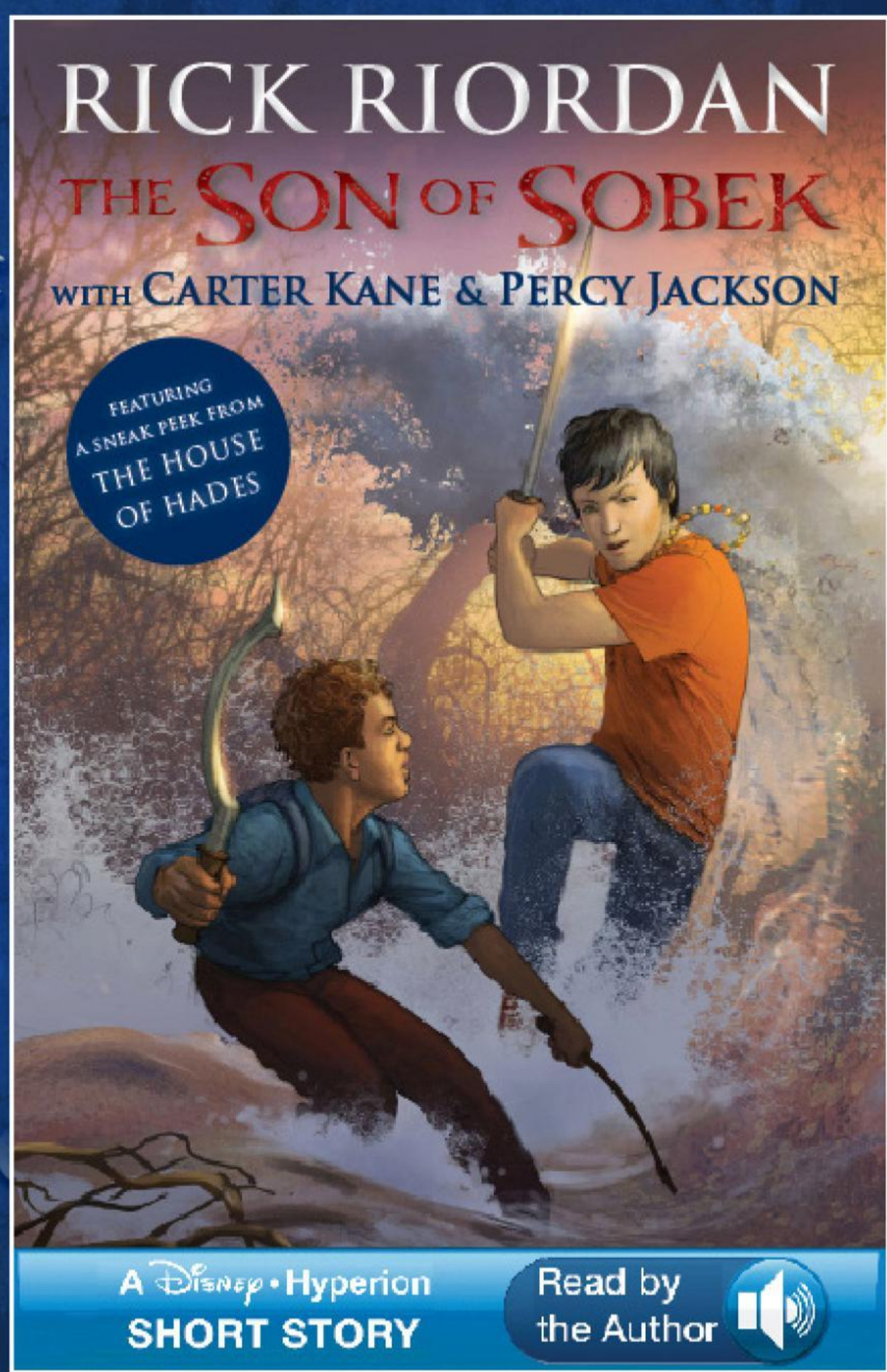

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ATTILA FUTAKI is the *New York Times* best-selling illustrator of *The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel* and *The Sea of Monsters: The Graphic Novel*. He also illustrated and colored *Conan the Barbarian* (written by Victor Gischler) and *Severed* (written by Scott Snyder and Scott Tuft). Attila studied at the International School of Comics in Florence, Italy. He lives in Budapest, Hungary. Visit AttilaFutaki.blogspot.com.

GREG GUILHAUMOND studied drawing and animation at the European School of Visual Arts. After graduating, he worked in Web and graphic design while also doing illustrations for various role-playing games and magazines and producing underground comics. Greg provided the colors for *Severed*. *The Titan's Curse: The Graphic Novel* is his first book for children. He lives in Tours, France. Visit Doublegarga.canalblog.com.

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